**ACROSS** / A19
**Panlilio allies** ask for resignation of his close aide

**BUSINESS** / B1
**Credit squeeze** in West not likely to spread to RP

**LEARNING** / G4
**Eureka! cites 10 reasons** for visiting Science Discovery Center

**WORLD** / A26
**FBI struggling** to handle avalanche of financial cases

**LIFESTYLE** / D4
**UP Mobile Theater** back on road as Lakbay Dulaang UP

HEY (left) spoofs vice presidential candidate Palin (right) on "Saturday Night Live." ALSO


PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 20, 2008 ★ 11 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 317 P18 online: www.inquirer.net


## Declare 'torture' camp a crime scene, SC asked

By Norman S. Bordadora

A LAWYER FOR THE FAMILIES OF TWO missing University of the Philippines activists has asked the Supreme Court to declare a former military encampment in Bataan—where anthropologists had found burned human bones—"a crime scene," and to protect evidence of crime in the area.

SCANNED A11

## It's Palin vs 'Palin'

NEW YORK—IT WAS Sarah Palin versus Sarah Palin late Saturday in a bizarre outing as double take than saw the Republican vice presidential candidate join her own television mimic.

Her NBC comedy show Saturday Night Live opened with a—

IT'S PALIN A17

# McCain cuts Obama lead to 3 points

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRAT BARACK Obama on Sunday pursued his audacious hunt for votes in America's conservative heartland after tallying monster crowds in the Republican "red" state of Missouri, but a new poll showed his lead over Republican rival John McCain had dropped to 3 percentage points.

Obama leads McCain by 48 to 45 percent among likely US voters, down 1 percentage point from Saturday, according to a Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby poll released on Sunday. The four-day tracking poll has a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

With just over two weeks remaining to Election Day, Obama received a major boost to his campaign when retired US Gen. Colin Powell, a former secretary of state in the Bush administration, on Sunday endorsed the candidacy of the Illinois senator.

In an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," Powell, a critic of the Iraq war, backed Obama over fellow Republican McCain, a leading backer of the conflict.

An Obama endorsement by the widely respected Powell would represent a severe blow to McCain's chances for a comeback victory by undercutting the Republican's argument that Obama was a risky choice for commander in chief.

"For the first time in the polling, Mc-

MCCAIN A17

OBAMA (left) and McCain at the start of the third and final presidential debate. AP

# Global crisis summits up

## Bush to host first meeting next month on world action

WASHINGTON — US President George W. Bush and European leaders on Saturday agreed to hold a series of global summits on the financial crisis as the world grapples with its biggest economic debacle since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Just hours after Bush, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso announced their initiative to hammer out a global action plan, South Korea pledged $130 billion in state guarantees and capital injections to shore up its banks.

Also joining worldwide efforts to stabilize the battered banking sector, the United Arab Emirates said it would inject the equivalent of $19 billion into long-term bank deposits. Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry also called for a cash injection into banks for financing.

Bush said he would host the first summit that would be held soon after the Nov. 4 presidential election.

A joint statement, issued after Bush's meeting with Sarkozy and at the presidential retreat in Camp David, said the first summit would focus on "principles of reform" needed to fix the world's financial system.

"Later summits would be de-

GLOBAL A6

WITH Mayon Volcano and its cloud-covered peak as backdrop, 71-year-old Vicente Course and other runners meet the challenge of a path of volcanic rocks during the first Mayon Trail Run. PHILIPPINE FREELANCE DIRECTOR

## US, Europe differ on 'democratic capitalism'

By Amando Doronila

IN A CYCLE OF 80 YEARS, FREE-market capitalism has crossed the threshold of a historic era, spanned by the Crash of 1929 and the current turmoil of the global financial system.

In recent speeches in New York and Toulon, French

ANALYSIS

President Nicolas Sarkozy took to task "Wall Street greed" and "predatory leaders," blamed for the crisis of "free-market capitalism," the founding philosophy of what Europeans decide as the unfettered "Anglo-American" model of capitalism.

"Le laissez-faire, c'est fini," Sarkozy said. "The financial crisis is not the crisis of capitalism. It is the crisis of a system that has distanced itself from the most fundamental values of capitalism, which harnessed the spirit of capitalism."

At a weekend meeting at Camp David, US President George W. Bush agreed with Sarkozy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso to hold a summit to discuss ways to fix the world financial system.

In a joint statement, the three leaders declared the summit

US, EUROPE A8

# Mayon trail run tackles global warming

By Ephraim Aguilar
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

LEGAZPI CITY—SOUTHEAST Asian Games gold medalist Alan Ballesteros bolted straight at Mayon Volcano's smoking peak as he sounded a trail.

Ballesteros, 34, is one of those who took part in the first Mayon Trail Run (MTR) in Albay yesterday. The event was part of an awareness campaign against global warming.

More than 150 runners negotiated a craggy hill laden with manmade obstacles, a river crossing, and a pile of volcanic rocks in the 5-kilometer fun run and 10-km adventure foot race.

The race was organized by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) and Northface, an international brand of sports apparel and outdoor equipment. JCI is a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs whose members are more popularly known as Jaycees.

Even for the most experienced runners, some of them holding national and international titles, the MTR was one of the most grueling and unusual runs.

The race started from the Peñaranda Park in the city to the top of Lignon Hill in Daraga town, then down to a newly created lush trail traversing the Yawa River to the Borgo Gully, one of the main pathways of volcanic debris swept by heavy rains.

Reaching the lava front, the racers made a U-turn and climbed back to Lignon.

In his 14-year running career, Ballesteros said it was only in the

MAYON A4

*11 candles, prayers for blast victims*

By Allison W. Lopez

JUST WHEN THE MALLS WERE opening yesterday, a row of flickering candles briefly turned a corner of the bustling Makati City shopping strip into a shrine of painful remembrance.

Around 20 people, including members of an antiterrorism advocacy group, assembled at the site of the Glorietta 2 explosion on Sunday morning to mark the first death anniversary of its victims.

Gathering just outside a wall of galvanized iron sheets covering the

11 CANDLES A10

RELATIVES of one of the victims of last year's Glorietta shopping mall blast in Makati City light candles for their loved one near the tragedy site. RICHEL V. UMEL

# GSIS, Meralco feud on power purchase

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE Insurance System (GSIS) has renewed its boardroom battle with the Lopez group in Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), the country's biggest power distributor.

The Meralco board will meet on Oct. 27 to take on a proposal by GSIS General Manager Winston Garcia to stop the power utility's mandatory purchase of 10 percent of its power requirements from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

Garcia also wants Meralco to push the fixed rental fees paid to Lopez-owned independent power producers (IPPs)—the San Lorenzo and Sta. Rita power plants.

Meralco's mandatory purchases from WESM and fees paid to the two power plants have unduly bloated the company's power purchase bills, according to Garcia.

Garcia raised these points in a heated Meralco board meeting on Sept. 22 when one of the independent board members, former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, moved to defer any action on the issues until next week's board meeting.

Garcia warned that if he did not get his way with the Meralco

GSIS A4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Nationwide, Typhoon Kirogi and Monsoon will bring cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Tel—not in the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Kalibo/Boracay | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Cabo Sinsi | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legaspi | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legaspi | Mostly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

Temperature readings from PAGASA stations nationwide

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | 24°C to 31°C | Kalibo/Boracay | 24°C to 31°C |
| Baguio | 17°C to 25°C | Iloilo | 24°C to 31°C |
| Tuguegarao | 23°C to 31°C | Cebu | 24°C to 31°C |
| Laoag | 24°C to 31°C | Tacloban | 24°C to 31°C |
| Cabo Sinsi | 24°C to 31°C | Gen. Santos | 24°C to 31°C |
| Legaspi | 24°C to 31°C | Zamboanga | 24°C to 31°C |
| Legaspi | 24°C to 31°C | Cagayan de Oro | 24°C to 31°C |
| Tuguegarao | 24°C to 31°C | Davao | 24°C to 31°C |

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# Takeover of ABS-CBN was legal, SC rules

## Lopezes agreed to pact with Benedicto during martial law, says high court

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| | | 25,000 | 75,000 | 50,000 | 60,000 |
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS Drive your ambition

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS cleared the late Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto, of any criminal liability in the takeover of the ABS-CBN broadcast network during the martial law years, saying its owners, the Lopez family, had consented to the arrangement.

The high court thus upheld a 1987 ruling by the Ombudsman declaring a 1973 letter agreement between the Lopezes and Benedicto valid. The court said the Lopezes should pursue a civil, not criminal, suit against the estate of Benedicto and his associates.

In the decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, the high court noted that while the Lopezes denied freely entering into the lease agreement with Benedicto for the use of their network's television and radio equipment and Quezon City premises, they "invoked the letter-agreement's provisions and made claims thereunder."

The Lopezes in 1994 filed complaints for the crimes of commission of deeds by means of violence or intimidation, estafa, theft, robbery, occupation of real property or usurpation of real rights in property and other deeds against Benedicto and his fellow private respondents, who used the ABS-CBN facilities from 1972 until the fall of the Marcos regime in 1986.

### Through intimidation

The Lopez family said it had signed the letter agreement on the eve of the network's facilities on June 8, 1972, with Benedicto's group on the expectation that rent would be paid and then seize, Eugenio Lopez Jr., would be released from detention.

The Lopezes said the agreement was forced on them through intimidation.

Then President Ferdinand Marcos had locked all independent media companies when he declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, among them the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN and Manila Chronicle newspaper; the Roces family-owned Channel 5 and the largest circulation Manila Times newspaper. Many media executives and journalists were jailed.

A line school classmate and guerilla buddy of Marcos, Benedicto was given control of several media outlets as well as the sugar industry, among others.

The Supreme Court, however, agreed with former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that "although the petitioners may not have realized their expectations in entering into the letter-agreement, such does not render their causes thereof defective."

"From the entirety of the records, it is beyond cavil that petitioners seek to attach criminal liability to an unquestionably civil undertaking gone awry," the court's First Division said.

### Letter-agreement provisions

It noted that the Lopezes had discussed with the Benedicto group the fixing of rental rates, written a demand letter for the occupation and use of the network's property and equipment, and filed a claim against the estate of the late Benedicto—all based on the letter agreement's provisions.

"The action of petitioners clearly evinces their ratification of the letter agreement," the court said.

The final ruling, therefore, dismissed the Lopez petition against Benedicto and associates Salvador Tan but added that this was "without prejudice to the filing of separate civil actions against their respective estates."

The court ruled that the Ombudsman did not abuse his discretion in ruling that the complaint was civil in nature.

The petition in question was filed by ABS-CBN, Eugenio Lopez Jr., Eugenio Almeda Lopez and Oscar Lopez against then Ombudsman Desierto, Benedicto, his son and two other respondents in 1994. After the Ombudsman dismissed the petition in 1997, the Lopezes took their case to the Supreme Court, charging that Desierto had acted with grave abuse of discretion.

# De la Paz report on trip expenses awaited Tuesday

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PHILIPPINE National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa expects a detailed expense report from the delegation that attended an Interpol assembly in Russia when ex-DND Comptroller Eliseo de la Paz returns home on Tuesday, according to a police official.

Spokesperson Chief Supt. Nestor Ramirez said yesterday the PNP welcomed an investigation from the unspent P1,000 limit for travelers.

De la Paz was caught with over $60,000 excess or P6.93 million in his wife's bag. He was held over by Russian customs officials until he could show proof the money was from legitimate sources.

The DND was documents to Russia showing the money had come from its general fund and was intended to cover official expenses and any "contingencies" the Philippine delegation may face. The 77th Interpol General Assembly held in St. Petersburg on Oct. 6-11 was convened.

"Immediately upon his return, the Chief PNP expects to receive the liquidation report of the PNP delegation," Ramirez said.

All unused cash advances would be "properly reversed" to the PNP general fund, he added.

While being questioned by Russian authorities, police officials back home scrambled to defend De la Paz's bringing of such a huge amount on a foreign trip, saying it was for "unplanned" expenses and activities and in case of emergency.

But the Senate and Ombudsman would have none of it. Both has declared its intention to investigate De la Paz.

Yesterday, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, vice chair of the Senate finance committee, announced she would summon De la Paz and the other officers who accompanied Interpol assembly for questioning.

# Cost of rebel arms to gov't rises sharply

LIKE THE COST OF EVERYTHING else, the price of an Armalite assault rifle surrendered by New People's Army guerrillas to the authorities has risen sharply.

From P18,000 per Armalite, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) headed by Hermogenes Esperon Jr. would now pay rebel returnees P50,000 for their long arms.

"What is P18,000? It is not enough for them to cope with their reintegration into mainstream society. We increased the incentive to P50,000 to make their return more meaningful and viable," Esperon told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday.

He said the increase would bring to P150,000 the amount an NPA guerrilla could receive for returning in the fold of the law.

He said that under the Social Integration Program (SIP) administered by the OPAPP, each rebel returnee is given a P20,000 commitment cash allowance and another P50,000 in livelihood assistance.

"This means a rebel returnee stands to receive a whopping P120,000 if he brings an Armalite with him when he surrenders," Esperon said.

The amount, he noted, was more than enough to start a small business. It was also meant to counter the rebels' skill in the ills in rotten down and rejoin society.

The OPAPP started the SIP in March 2007 with a P200-million allocation from the government. Esperon said that since last year, only P28 million has been used.

Jocelyn R. Uy

# Carabao gives life for soldiers

GOVERNMENT TROOPS OWE THEIR lives to a carabao that stepped on a land mine intended for them in Maguindanao on Friday, a military official reported.

The innocent carabao was killed instantly in Barangay Ricungo, Datu Saudi-Ampatuan town. It had stepped on a land mine believed planted by Moro rebels who were being pursued by soldiers from the 64th Infantry Battalion.

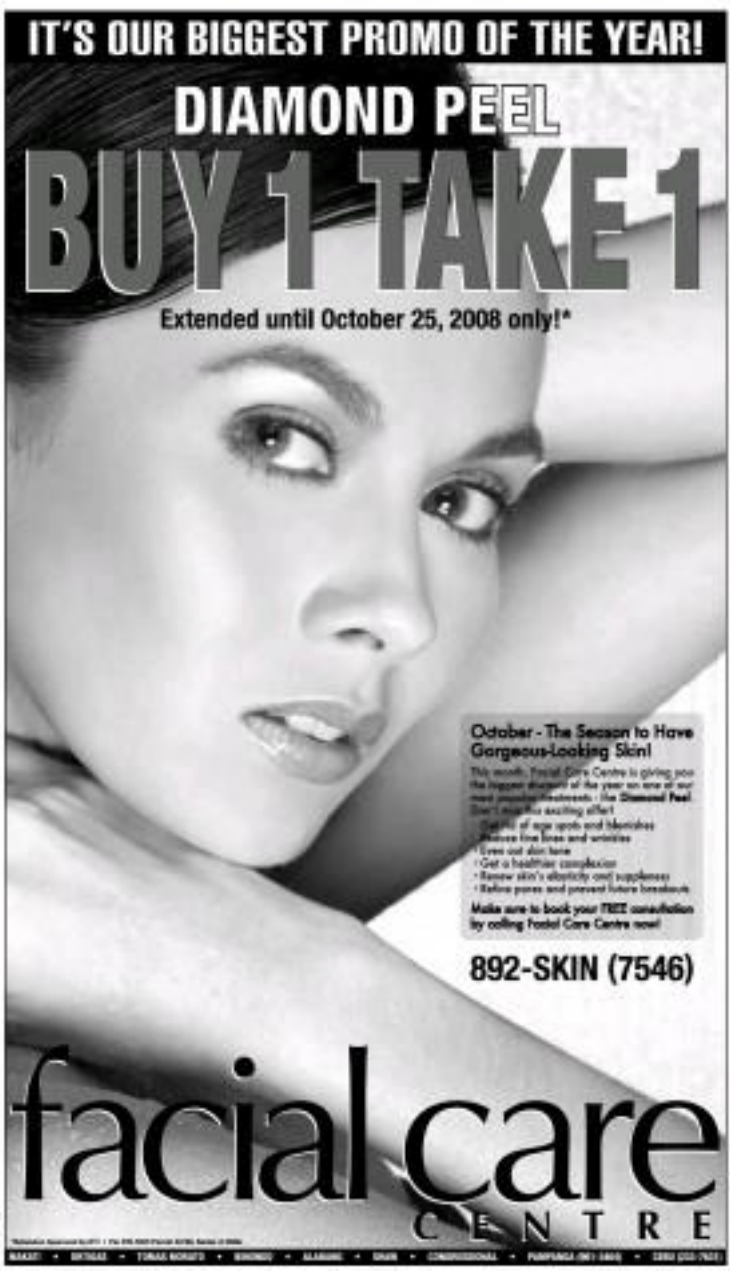
Col. Rhufus Jaimas, 601st Brigade commander, told the Inquirer by phone yesterday the mine "would have killed our platoon but a carabao stepped on it first, thus saving our soldiers."

The use of land mines has been banned under the Geneva Convention.

Following the explosion, at least five Moro rebels were seen scampering from the site, leaving behind a half sack of rice, sugar, coffee and uncooked food items believed intended for their comrades stopped in Sitio Unknown in nearby Barangay Ricungo.

Jaimas said that five days ago, a soldier was killed when he stepped on land mine.

Jocelyn R. Uy



BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?
FLYPAD
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

# GSIS, Meralco feud on power purchase

From page A1

board, he would raise these issues with Congress whose help he hoped to get urgently for his privatization advocacy.

### Complicated

The Lopez group has remained cool to Gorriz's proposals, saying that these two legal issues that have to be studied by experts.

"I guess he's just learning his way through a very complicated industry. We have tried to explain these things to him, but it is his prerogative to ask and have more," Meralco treasurer Ruben Ambrosio said.

Early this year, Gorriz launched a hostile bid to wrest control of Meralco from the Lopez group, sounding the controlling block of existing the ability to change the second highest power rates in Asia to the detriment of customers that his plans were killed as the Lopezes were able to retain a slim majority on the board.

Gorriz obtained an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to exclude the proxy votes of the Lopez group in the election of the board directors last May.

However, the Lopezes countered with a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals, enabling them to maintain management control of the utility.

The corporate battle has led to one of the country's biggest judicial controversies, prompting the Supreme Court to declare Court of Appeals Associate Justice Vicente Abad Santos to create Rotea and to suspend deputies

From page A1

Gorriz's confirmation.

It was Rotea who penned the ruling that voided the SEC order stopping Meralco from including proxy votes in the stockholders' meeting and election. The appellate court's 9E Division unanimously upheld Meralco's argument that the SEC had no jurisdiction over the issue.

### Bribe offer

Salazar, a member of another division that had claimed jurisdiction over the Meralco case, disclosed the bribe offer for him to favor Meralco.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Gorriz said Meralco was paying double to triple the rates of National Power Corp.-Napocor for power it bought from WESM, which adds between P5 billion and P10 billion in fees at the day's current power tariff.

"While we are compelled to buy 10 percent of our power from WESM under the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act), this is to direct conflict with our commitment to our customers to buy power at the lowest cost," Gorriz said.

The GMO official said Meralco's commitment to its customers should prevail. "Therefore, we must have WESM to sell to the marketplace as Napocor can not sell to us at all," he said.

Andreada said Meralco had no choice but to buy from "WESM because it was the law which Gorriz should see 'renovation-1' chosen to ignore because it suited his propaganda.

### Price setter

Andreada noted that the manufacturers in general preferred power from the Ilijan power facility owned by part of WESM's "building block" to eventually emerge as the industry's price setter.

As the single biggest buyer, Meralco should have used its market power to demand lower rates from suppliers or save at least equal to those charged by Napocor, according to Gorriz.

Andreada said these issues had been answered in previous hearings where it was established that Napocor could not possibly meet all of Meralco's requirements at the time.

"The optimum level might not be equal to the cheapest power rates because Napocor cannot serve all demand at the same time," the Meralco treasurer said.

On the "stand or capacity fees" collected by the Lopez IPPs, Gorriz said the set-up was forcing Meralco to pay between P47 billion and P52 billion yearly whether or not the IPPs were operating.

The law Lorenzo and his Pitx power plants provide up to 50 percent of Meralco's power supply.

"We are already paying for their power whether we buy from them or not. Why should they charge us if their plants are not working? They wouldn't do it in any other business," Gorriz said.

### BOT not BOO

He said these capacity fees were incurred out of the build-operate-and-own (BOO) contract entered into by Meralco with the Lopez-owned IPPs that he claimed were illegal because only build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) contracts were allowed for power projects.

In a BOT contract, a private company gets to own the facility or power plant after 25 years. In a BOT contract, however, the facility is turned over to the government.

Andreada said Gorriz might have been "misinformed" on the capacity fees or being on top of the fees Meralco paid for the assured power from the IPPs.

The treasurer compared the capital fees with the so-called available reservation fees paid when banking a hotel room.

Andreada also disputed Gorriz's claim that BOO contracts for power generation was illegal. He noted that the BOT law allowed several reforms for BOT and that the BOO contract had been adopted in a number of government projects.

"Whenever there is BOO in which has a power plant because there is a tendency among operators to run those a plant in the last few years of the contract and stop making routine maintenance, with the government ending up with a facility that would be so costly to rehabilitate or building anew plant," Andreada said.

He said a BOO scheme was how Sta Inglesias.

# Mayon trail run tackles global warming

From page A1

MTR that let run plan become erratic.

"In my past races, I would trick to the last plus I'll finish. But here, I had to change it because the trail was packed with unexpected challenges in every segment," he said.

The race also required great endurance and the application of different skills, he said.

"I just kept looking at Stephen's pink and left like he surely and rocky trail never ended. We had to climb rough terrain and slippery wooden stairs, and cross a river," Bellester said shortly after he received the finish line.

### Winners

Bellester said most of the runners were used to road races on smooth and flat pavements, making the MTR really different.

The winners, who came from different running associations, were—Male: 1st, Elmer Sabal (1:49:00); 2nd, Allan Ballesteros (1:50:08); 3rd, Conrado Cabral (1:50:35).

Female: 1st, Lovel Gloriosito (1:32:26); 2nd, Merlita Aldea (1:43:07); 3rd, Ellen Talavera (1:49:08).

The oldest runner was 71-year-old Honore Guarin of Los Baños, Laguna, who was wellapplauded when he finished the race standing strong.

Trail running is an adventure sport is more popular in Europe, according to Bellester. He said Albay's mayon trail was good shoes for the promotion of this endurance sport.

Provincial tourism officer Joy Belmoro said the trail can could be held annually and could draw more tourists.

These days, many tourists are looking for new ways to have vacations and adventure spots. Belmoro said it would be good to have them both.

Yeo Eh Ya, MTR project chair and vice president of JEL Legazpi, said the trail run also sought to promote awareness of climate change.

### Global warming

He said seasons in the world and the spectator event aimed to realize the effects of global warming by making them experience it.

"Editing part in this trail run is like touching Mayon's soul. You can run on its lava from eruptions of the labor that killed and displaced over a thousand people at the height of Supertyphoon Reming," Bellester said.

Fifth Category and floods caused by Reming on Nov. 30, 2006, Albay officials linked the disaster to the changing climate.

### A2C2 campaign

After the tragedy, the provincial government launched the "Albay to Action for Climate Change" (A2C2) campaign, a pioneering local climate change adaptation in the Asia Pacific.

To add the JEL Legazpi run initiative that the MTR took place a day after 10 lawmakers from Asia, Europe, Africa and South America signed the Manila Declaration on Climate Change, which calls on rich nations to create a global fund to help reduce disaster risks brought by rising sea temperatures.

The five-page document, titled "Stop Manila Call for Action and Parliamentarians Summit on Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation," was issued at the close of a two-day consultative meeting at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Yeo said that the developing countries like the Philippines, is vulnerable for a big bulge to start small through awareness campaigns like the MTR.

Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
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# Sign up early for high school – DepEd

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION is asking parents of graduating elementary school students to register in the public or private high schools of their choice in January 2009.

The early registration, scheduled every Saturday in January, is aimed at making the placement of incoming high school students and preparing intervention programs for those who could not be accommodated in the schools of their choice or those who may have to drop out due to financial and other reasons.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said in a statement he was needed because only 66 percent of those who enter Grade 1 actually graduate from Grade 6, and of those who do, only 50 percent enroll in high school.

"Through the early registration scheme, the DepEd will be able to keep tabs of those graduating from Grade 6 and take action if there are students who are in danger of dropping out from school," Lapus said last week.

According to a recent DepEd assessment, graduating Grade 6 pupils should bring a certification from their school principal stating that they are candidates for graduation in school year 2008-09 to the high school of their choice.

Those who fail to register can expect a visit from local school officials who will inquire about the student's status for the next year, the DepEd said.

Lapus said most the intervention programs was an Open High School that would offer distance learning modalities to suit their needs.

One model of this is night shift for some students. The school may also offer a schedule where students study through modified learning modules.

In case where a public high school is unable to accommodate all applicants, the DepEd can arrange for their enrollment in nearby private schools under a government-assisted program.

Lapus explained the early registration was not the same as pre-enrollment process. Enrollment for school year 2009-10 is in June, he said.

Krystal L. Abes

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US HOUSING SLUMP

# More pain for consumers, more bad debt for banks

WASHINGTON—THE FALLING US housing market, which triggered the global financial crisis, is still far from reaching the bottom, threatening more pain for consumers and more bad debt for banks, according to analysts.

With the bursting of the real estate bubble, prices are sticking under pressure from a glut of unsold homes, particularly in areas like California, Florida and Arizona. Exacting further downward pressure on home prices are rising foreclosures, worsening unemployment and tightening credit conditions.

"In terms of prices, I don't think they'll bottom out until the end of next year and I don't think they're going to bounce back. They'll crawl back," said David Wyss, chief economist for ratings agency Standard & Poor's.

Wyss forecast another 10-percent fall in home values over the next year—as measured by the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller property survey that tracks prices in 20 cities. The market has fallen 28 percent since its peak in July 2006.

Slashing prices will not be reversed by proposed government intervention to help homeowners threatened by foreclosure, according to analysts. Its economic conditions worsen, the property market looks a one-way bet in the short term.

### 'Ugly little spiral'

"We're in an ugly little spiral at the moment," said Keith Gumbinger, vice president of HSH Associates, a research company that tracks the mortgage market by surveying 2,000 lenders weekly in the United States.

"The market is suffering from oversupply and there has been very little improvement in basic that would contribute to demand," Gumbinger explained.

"We could be talking another year before we see a stabilization and that all hinges on whether the economy deteriorates to a great degree."

In the housing debacle preceding 3000, home building contributed to developers rushing in to easy credit and strong economic conditions. Demand was stimulated by mortgage companies giving easy loans with few conditions.

Now, thousands of new homes stand empty, jobless rates is rising, mortgage rates are higher and people are debating on their payments, triggering the sales of foreclosed homes at knock-down prices.

### More vulnerable than ever

After a month of financial chaos has pushed the global economy system to the brink of meltdown, the broader economy now looks more vulnerable than ever, raising the prospects of a deep recession that would further reduce incomes and housing demand.

"The home price figures that we have are prior to the events last month on the stock market," said Todd Sinai, an associate professor of real estate at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We don't know yet the impact of the economic turmoil on the housing market and I suspect it will not be positive."

Despite a US government rescue of most huge giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and a $700-billion program to restore banks, mortgage rates are still rising and will remain high relative to the levels of previous years, analysts say.

### Biggest one-week jump

Bankrate.com, which tracks the home loan market, says the rate of an average 30-year mortgage rose by 0.3 percentage points to 6.74 percent last week, its biggest one-week jump since 1987.

Gumbinger, who estimated the rate at 6.75 percent, said this compared with a low of 5.61 percent in January and should be viewed in a context of tightened conditions where lenders are turning away people with poor credit ratings or small down payments.

"There are borrowers who grew up in a time when credit was available in any circumstances and that is no longer the case," he said.

One mitigating factor for prices is that property companies are reacting fast to reduce the supply of homes. This will eventually support prices when it filters through, but that is unfortunately bad news for the broader economy in the short run.

### Additional 0.3-percent fall

Construction starts on new US homes slumped an additional 0.3 percent in September to the lowest level since the recession in 1991, official data showed on Friday.

Year over year, housing starts were 31 percent below the level of construction in September 2007.

"Although the builders have cut back pretty sharply on new homes, most of the problem is in existing home inventory," Wyss said.

"The problem is that the market is going to have to overcorrect to get rid of the oversupply that's out there."

Existing home inventories are high because of the glut of newly finished unsold homes sitting on the market, the difficulty of selling older homes in a market with few buyers and an increase in foreclosed properties.

And Sinai, a researcher from industry group the National Association of Realtors, also gave a glimmer of hope in 2009, forecasting a modest 2.0-percent increase in prices nationally over next year.

"The increase is likely to come toward the latter part of 2009," Sinai said. AFP

# Global crisis summits up; 1st meet to tackle financial reforms

US President George Bush (center) greets French President Nicolas Sarkozy (left) and European Union Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso at Camp David in Maryland. AFP

Front page A1

signed to implement agreement on specific steps." The joint communique said, adding that ministers would be convened "as necessary" beginning next week.

Bush is set to leave office in January and a White House spokesperson said he did not know whether the newly elected president, either Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain, would be invited to attend the first summit.

Japan, which chairs the Group of Eight (G-8), declared no backing for the summit. But its finance minister warned the top-level meetings would only be worthwhile if they produced concrete results.

"If a summit were to be held, it should come up with a strong action plan or a decision," Finance Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said on Sunday. "I think the prime minister is making preparations only based on this understanding."

### Leader of last resort

In Seoul, authorities rushed to implement their rescue plan to bolster local markets, which have been plagued by worries that the high level of borrowing taken by Korean banks makes Asia's fourth-largest economy particularly vulnerable to the 14-month-old credit crisis.

"The government has decided to join in global coordinated efforts to stabilize financial markets and will continue to provide preemptive, decisive and sufficient measures to this end," Finance Minister Kang Man-soo told reporters.

"We have to do our best to tide over the financial crisis and stop an economic slump," Prime Minister Han Seung-soo said.

His government offered up to ₩100 billion in guarantees for bank borrowings in foreign currencies, and a ₩10-billion injection into the banking system.

Despite foreign reserves of almost $240 billion, South Korea is seen as vulnerable to the current financial because of a surge in short-term foreign borrowing by its banks in the past year as it's interest rates fell.

The crucial research was complicating efforts to lift some those loans, creating a scramble for dollars and a 40-percent plunge in the value of South Korea's currency, the won, against the greenback this year.

The won has fallen to its lowest level since the Asian financial crisis 11 years ago, as foreign investors sold off a record 28 trillion won of local shares.

Analysts welcomed the measures taken by Seoul, saying they should soothe local markets. They said the central bank would likely follow up with further interest rate cuts early in the next month to prop up sagging domestic demand.

"The government has sent a strong signal to market players in a panic that they will stand as lender of last resort in a crisis," said Hong Sun-young at Samsung Economic Research Institute.

### Billions of dollars not enough

Wild swings in stock markets amid gathering fears of the worst global recession since the 1930s showed hundreds of billions of dollars committed to rescue bailouts were not enough, prompting calls for a global summit and far-reaching reforms.

"It would be wrong to shall, longe the foundations of market economies. But we cannot continue along the same lines because the same problems will trigger the same disasters," Sarkozy whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said on Saturday.

Sarkozy has been urging a broad overhaul of the so-called Bretton Woods system of international finance and commerce that was put up in the 1940s in the aftermath of the Great Depression. Critics say the post-World War II institutions that robots call Bretton Woods—the World Bank and International Monetary Fund—are ill-equipped to deal with the global economy and complexities of modern finance.

It has also become close to public traders that the challenge is on big-real markets are interconnected for any country to act alone.

Governments around the world have pledged about $3.2 trillion—about the same as the economic output of Germany—in a variety of schemes that guarantees bank deposits, bank-to-bank lending, and taking stakes in banks to shore up their capital.

That came on top of massive cash injections into money markets and coordinated interest rate cuts. The measures offered some respite to money markets, which seized up gripped by fears of more bank failures after last month's bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers.

### China blames West

The financial crisis has mixed fears across the globe that many countries could enter into recession—the contraction of an economy in two consecutive quarters. Many analysts, however, are predicting a prolonged recession.

But for China, one country that is confident it will survive the financial meltdown, the current crisis is American's fault.

The official Xinhua news agency blamed US consumers for fueling the crisis with reckless spending, saying in an opinion piece from New York: "Many people think that you cannot defeat the invisible hand concept of 'saving the corn while it is still on the stalk' and that financial crisis which has a deep impact."

The current crisis began with high-risk or subprime US home loans last year. The loans, repackaged as complex investment instruments loosely known as derivatives, were sold to investors and banks around the world.

When Americans defaulted on these loans, this set off a chain reaction through the global financial system, eventually leaving banks short of cash and hesitant to make the interbank loans essential to the system's smooth functioning.

### Economic pain

Signs of economic pain abound worldwide.

US consumer confidence and new home construction continue to tumble, reinforcing views that the world's biggest economy was in or close to a recession and that the outlook for Europe and Japan was similarly grim.

In Britain, finance minister Alistair Darling said the government would have to borrow more to fund public spending to generate growth and employment.

"This is a time when you have to support the economy," he told the Sunday Telegraph. "We cannot allow borrowing to rise."

Spain was the latest country to say it would enter recession next year if the global economy suffered dire fates.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said the economy should return to growth by the second half of 2009, but was now riding in negative quarterly growth or slumps in output.

Japan, the world's second biggest economy that is already teetering on the brink of recession, was set to slash its economic forecasts later this month, Bank of Japan board member Atsushi Mimura was reported as saying.

The financial meltdown has left no corner of the world unscathed with Iceland, Ukraine and Pakistan scrambling to secure aid from financial institutions in prop up their economies.

The bailout pushed cities in financial collapse by the bank crisis, Island nuter conversatory as Russia indicated it was not yet convinced it should issue it a loan.

In Russia, Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin said investors had pulled $121 billion out of his country from August through September. AFP

# US, Europe differ on 'democratic capitalism'

Front page A1

sound "took agreement on principles of reform needed to avoid a repetition of the problems and restore global prosperity in the future."

While Sarkozy and Barroso welcomed Bush's initiative, Bush said the agenda for the first summit would include ideas on how to prevent future crises in a way that preserved free markets.

He warned that to underweak, big reforms. "It is essential we preserve the foundations of democratic capitalism."

### Not of same mind

It appears that Bush and the European were not of the same mind about the concept of "democratic capitalism."

Sarkozy and Barroso said: "We want to work hand in hand with the Americans to create the capitalism of the 21st century."

The European leaders have praised to convene an emergency meeting of the world's richest nations (the Group of Eight or G-8), joined by others such as India and China, to overhaul the world's financial regulatory system.

Sarkozy said reforms to capitalism so that the mass offshore system ever created doesn't destroy its own foundations," Sarkozy said on Saturday in a speech to the Quebec's National Assembly.

### G-8 agenda

Sarkozy and Barroso are pressing Bush for a G-8 agenda that include stricter regulation and supervision of cross-border banks, a global "early warning" and an overhaul of the International Monetary Fund.

They also want include tougher regulation on hedge funds, new rules for credit rating companies, and limits on executive pay.

"There is no liberty without some regulation and stability," Sarkozy said as a press conference with British Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bush has not expressed himself in the European's agenda.

He said: "As we make the regulatory and institutional changes necessary to respond to the current crisis, it is essential that we preserve the foundations of democratic capitalism—a commitment to free markets, free enterprise and free trade.

"We must resist the dangerous temptation of economic isolationism and continue the policies of open markets that have lifted countless of living and helped millions of people escape poverty around the world," Bush added.

### New global financial order

But he said: "We need a new global financial order" but "we cannot continue along the same lines because the same problems will trigger the same disasters."

The European Commission president said "hedge funds and tax havens cannot continue to operate as they had been in the past, financial institutions cannot continue without supervision control."

Sarkozy said the present setup was no longer acceptable. "This is no longer possible ... This sort of capitalism is a betrayal of the sort of capitalism we believe in," he said.

Faced with the financial crisis that threatens the repeat of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the world's leading capitalist countries have closed ranks to try to avert the collapse of their system.

### European and US systems

But these capitalist countries find themselves to address their respective systems.

Europe has more state-regulated systems. By contrast, the United States has free-market capitalism in which private enterprise has enjoy relatively unfettered autonomy and in which state intervention is at a minimum and unwelcome.

The US system is a sharp contrast to the socialized French system, where there is considerable state intervention and one of the most generous social security entitlements in Europe.

The huge financial bailout package launched by the US government to avert the collapse of its financial institutions following the subprime mortgage crisis have moved outside draws the ideological foundation of American-style capitalism that is built on the principle of the less government is less government.

The US bailout programs have thrust the state into an unprecedented role, shackling the role of the market-to-cushion model of European democratic capitalism.

### Deep global recession

The urgent call for reforming the global financial system comes as financial institutions continued to be rocked by growing evidence that bank losses plus world-wide came too late to avert a deep global recession, according to the Financial Times.

A recession is defined as a period in which the economy contracts for two quarters in a row. Former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker said in Singapore, "I think we almost inevitably have a considerable recession."

Newspaper reports say that signs of worse were beginning to show: The United States has lost 760,000 jobs since late last year and retail sales in September plunged 1.2 percent, the largest drop in three years.

Ben Bernanke, Federal Reserve chair, warned that even if the bailout package succeeded in stabilizing the financial markets, "broader economic recovery will not happen right away."

The effect of the recession in unemployment is already being felt strongly in the United Kingdom, where unemployment rose by 0.7 percent in the three months to August compared with the previous quarter, its biggest rise since 1991. It was the biggest one-month jump in unemployment in more than 17 years.

There are not seen yet the same unemployment as in the scale generated by the Great Depression.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 13, 2008
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 3:1-13
Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your assessor?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story. "There was a rich man, and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought: 'What shall I do? For I do not have enough room to store my harvest.' He said: 'This is what I'll do! I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all the grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; so I ask you: who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the fate of the one who stores up riches instead of becoming rich to God."

**Commentary**

*A proudly person has fallen prey to the seductive allure of material possessions. He begins to think that his value as a human being is dependent upon his earthly riches, and strives to acquire more and more, even to the detriment of his family life and his spiritual well-being.*

*Greed is a force that is powerful and to all, yet with God's grace to use its energy positively. Ignatius and requires acts of generosity toward the poor and has led many to give a person to the realization that true grace comes not from one's possessions, but from being loved by the Lord. Seeking discernment.*

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# Small is better with towns – Abalos

LESS SHOULD HAVE more.

Local government officials are up in arms over the national government's proposed disproportionate distribution of the internal revenue allotment (IRA).

Cities and municipalities with bigger populations get a bigger share of the IRA while those with smaller populations receive less — a formula inconsistent with the principle of better population management, said Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

"But we sending the right message here? That the bigger the population, the better it is for a city or municipality?" he said in a phone interview with the Inquirer yesterday. "I think we all agree that we must control population. Ignoring that population is a big factor in economic development."

Abalos said the national government should instead reward local governments that are successful in preventing their populations from swelling.

"We don't want Manila here, and Mandaluyong is manageably small," he said. "It's not that the formula is there and it has to be amended," referring to the Local Government Code.

He said the over-all 71 percent of local government units received reduced IRA by virtue of their small-er populations. He said some managers fear "50 to 71 percent" of their personnel could be laid off.


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# Don't send money home

By Jerome Aning

OFWs OF THE WORLD, DON'T send money home on Oct. 29, which is [illegible] "Zero Remittance Day."

The International Migrants Alliance (IMA), composed of 110 grass-roots migrant organizations from around the world, has called on overseas Filipino workers not to send money home for a day to express their opposition to the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) that the Philippines will host on Oct. 28-29.

Eni Lestari Didi, chair who is in Manila, said in a statement that member groups from countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, US, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Taiwan and Australia would participate in the activity.

**Show assembly**

"Zero Remittance Day principally takes the GFMD to task for being an elitist, undemocratic forum aimed at perpetuating the greatest contradictions of migrants worldwide. All over the globe, the growing migrant

[illegible] overseas [illegible] obtain sociolegal [illegible] view of consolidated [illegible] attacks on migrant [illegible] fare," said Lestari. [illegible] grant workers regi

Lestari said the [illegible] expected to bec[illegible] tool for the suppo[illegible] migrant workers. [illegible] it fails to enable [illegible] problems and [illegible] unprecedented [illegible] migrants."

The IMA will [illegible] meeting in Manila

# Warning on SoKor

SEOUL[illegible] WORKERS [illegible] South Korea, including [illegible] Filipinos, on [illegible] crime and abuse because the [illegible] criminal than has failed to [illegible] [illegible] and labor [illegible]

This was the finding of [illegible] commissioned Trade Union Co[illegible] [illegible] which recently [illegible] [illegible] labor conditions in [illegible] South Korea.

While South Korea has [illegible] [illegible] core conventions of the [illegible] of Labor Organization on [illegible] [illegible] various and equal remuneration [illegible] priorities, discrimination [illegible] women and foreign workers is [illegible] frequent and serious," said [illegible] secretary general Say Byeo[illegible] statement posted on the orga[illegible] [illegible] door within twenty[illegible]-[illegible]

The ITUC report, released [illegible] 83, said migrant workers [illegible] [illegible] rest, chemical and dispersive [illegible] they need to organize unions to [illegible] [illegible] poor their working conditions.

Despite legal avenues, migrant [illegible] [illegible] rekrute from bringing complaints [illegible] out of fear of retaliation by [illegible] employers. Complainants include [illegible] withholding of wages and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

# on Oct. 29, OFWs urged

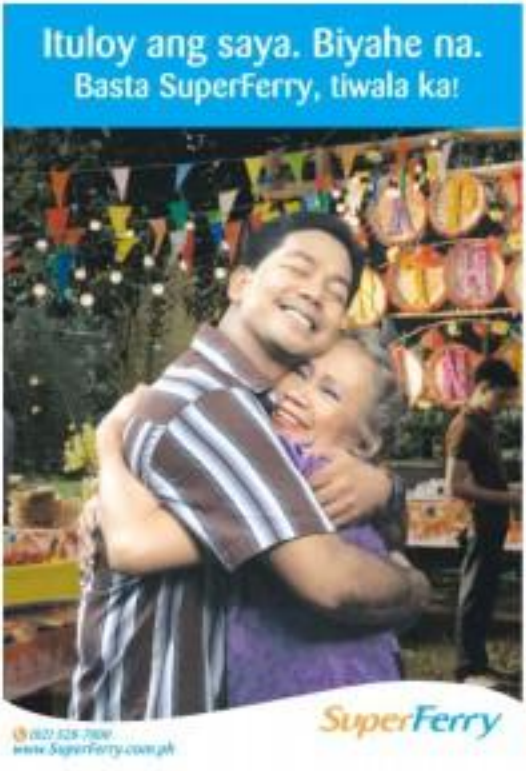
Assembly of Migrants and Refugees, also on Oct. 28-29. It aims to call for an end to the labor export policy, the creation of jobs at home, and the unconditional defense of migrants' rights.

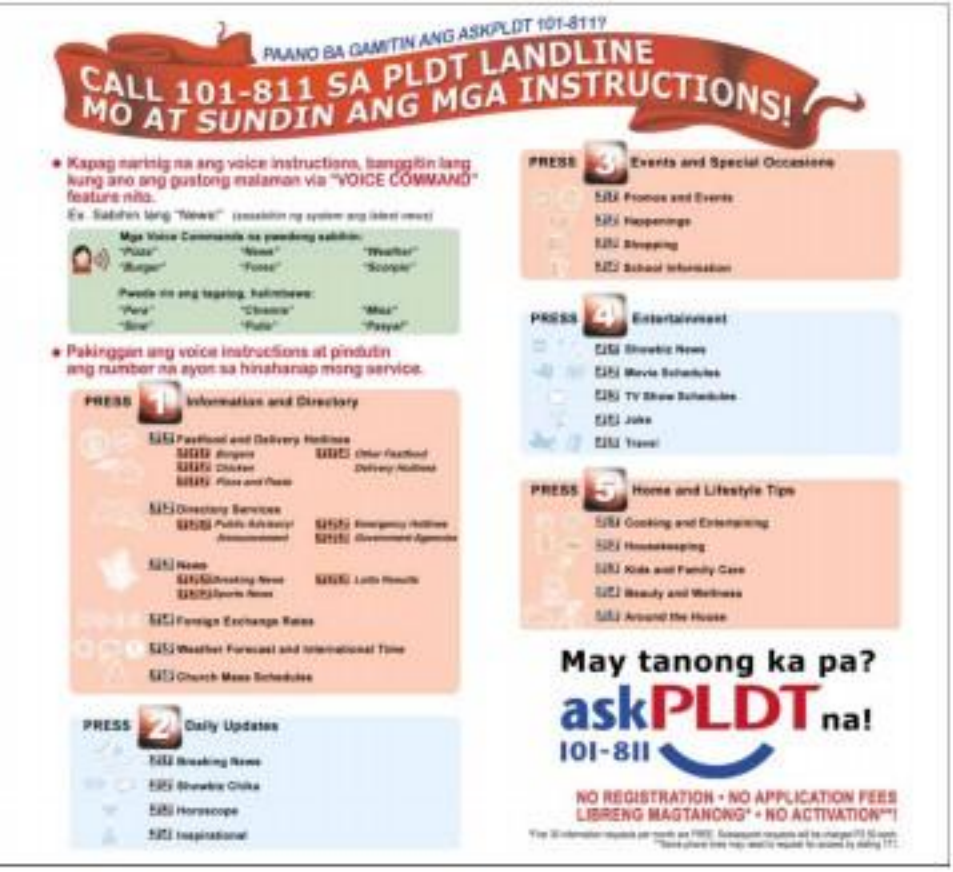
**Proof of defectiveness**

"The very fact that the GMD fails to even accommodate genuine migrant representation in its ranks is glaring proof of the forum's defectiveness," Lerma said, adding that GMD participants would only be governments, businesses and creditors focused on profiting from the labor export policy.

Migrante International Jerry Gonzalez Respicio, who is also IMA secretary general, said the observance of Zero Remittance Day would send out "the united message of protest from millions of migrants worldwide who are forced to leave their homelands to subject themselves to cheap labor and exploitation out of desperation."

Respicio added: "Migration as a tool for development is a fallacy. Migration, at the expense of migrants worldwide, would only serve to burnish Pinoy Pride outdone. It would not end poverty and joblessness."



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# OPINION

## Revise 'em

**EDITORIAL**

ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, SEN. Mar Roxas has become an extra-articulate exponent of populist economics. He ultimately assumable position on the suspension of the value-added tax at the height of the food and fuel emergencies, for example, surprised those who knew his investment banking and management background. We have, in fact, quarreled with some of his policy proposals, but on his latest campaign we can only agree vigorously.

Because of the global financial crisis, the Arroyo administration must review the assumptions behind its proposed 2009 budget—and that the budget itself. "It's foolishness not to act when we see that a storm is coming. We already said we will soon encounter problems, yet the Palace still says things are all right and won't do a thing. It's time to make hard decisions," he said in Filipino last week.

"We see the economy weakening, but the government's lukewarm to our call for the budget's revamp. It should realize that its actions are not enough to protect the people and their jobs."

The government's budgeting process began its current last May with the formal National Budget Memorandum outlining the "policy guidelines and procedures [to be used] in the preparation of the [Fiscal Year] 2009 budget proposals."

Because assumptions shape the final budget, the budget department circulates these at the start of the annual budgeting process. The problem is, this year's set of assumptions were computed before the global financial markets began its meltdown last month.

Item. The original version of the 2009 budget assumes the country's gross domestic product will grow by 6.6 to 6.7 percent in 2008 and an even more impressive 6.5 to 7.3 percent in 2009. The global financial crisis, however, renders these assumptions computed as early as April or May this year overly optimistic.

True, GDP growth last year was a robust 7.3 percent, but it would be folly to assume that growth this year and next will continue at roughly the same pace. The budget working in way through the legislative mill still assumes that the economy will grow by 6.1 to 7.1 percent next year. Contrast this projection with that made by the Asian Development Bank, which recently cut its Philippine GDP forecast for 2009 from 4.2 percent to 4.7 percent.

Item. The original version of the 2008 budget assumes the inflation rate next year will hover somewhere between 2.5 and 4.5 percent. Last August, Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto said inflation would slow to 6 to 8 percent in 2008, from about 7 to 9 percent this year. But various price shocks, including food and fuel, drove inflation last July to 12 percent. It would only be prudent to assume, for budgeting purposes, a double-digit inflation rate next year. The ADB revised its inflation estimate to 10.5 percent for 2008. (Making this assumption, we must note, is emphatically not the same as determining the central bank's own inflation target.)

Item. The original version of the 2009 budget assumes that the peso-dollar rate this year and next will stay in the P48 to P49 range. This has since been revised to P42 to P45 per dollar. But the current exchange rate is better than P47, and since the turmoil in world financial markets is expected to continue for at least a few years, it may only be prudent to assume a higher exchange rate.

If the economy will grow slower than expected, then we should expect tax revenues to slow down too, even perhaps to stay flat. The biggest bulk of tax revenues comes from individual and corporate incomes; if the global financial crisis slows the real economy, and it is expected to do, such incomes will go down. Another major source of tax revenues are the value-added and excise taxes; slower consumption would mean a lower tax intake.

The point is, the 2009 budget as currently proposed assumes economic conditions that no longer exist; like the rest of the world, the Philippines will find itself in more perilous economic circumstances because of the financial crisis. The least we can do is pass a budget that reflects the new realities.

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## Bad prison food poisoning poor prisoners

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

According to the source, the assignment of the budget officer to mistreatment since he is an active officer of the Philippine National Police and they are wondering what he is doing in the bureaucracy of corruption. He said it won't for an office of government agency. It would be interesting to find out why he left that agency.

The sources say it should be the Senate and not the House that should investigate the cunning since because the budget officer has been involved in filling people that he appears as a army in financial compromises from General Luna.

* * *

**What's happening in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)? Rumor is heard of abuse of process? Due process is the hallmark of democracy. The Constitution provides that an accused must be told what offense he has committed and should be given the chance to explain and defend himself. What kind of lawyers do they have in the BSP?**

The BSP has threatened 18 rural banks with sanctions or closure but refuses to tell them why. Can you hear that? The small banks are going to be punished but for what reason? The BSP does not want to say.

The BSP made a random audit of the 18 banks under the Legacy Group and said that the report by their examiners indicated that the banks were undercapitalized. It ordered the banks to infuse more capital or else face sanctions.

The banks asked for a copy of the report, called the Report of Examination, or ROE, but the BSP refused. It is confidential, said the BSP. Then the banks have no way of knowing the basis for the infusion of capital ordered by the BSP to enable them to comply or make corrections prior to submission of the said ROE to the Monetary Board (MB), the policymaking body of the BSP.

So the 18 rural banks, which were equipped with expensive cases, went to court to ask for a restraining order and to consolidate the cases against them since they were all the same. The Manila Regional Trial Court granted their petition. Without filing the Supreme Motion for Reconsideration, the BSP filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals. The BSP questioned the issuance of an injunction against it and the consolidation of the cases against the 18 banks.

The 18 rural banks are the Rural Bank of Pototan, Rural Bank of San Jose (Batangas), Rural Bank of Calatagan (Batangas) or Primera Rural Bank, Rural Bank of Magsaysay or Rural Bank of San Jose, Filipino Rural Bank, Philippine Countryside Rural Bank, Rural Bank of Cantilan (Cebu), Rural Bank of Banaga (Cebu) or First Interstate Bank, Rural Bank of BASECO and San Pablo City Development Bank.

On Sept. 30, 2008, the CA denied the BSP's petition to nullify the injunction of the trial court and its order to consolidate the 18 cases.

The CA said that the filing of a motion for reconsideration is an indispensable requisite before the filing of a special civil action for certiorari. It said that while this rule admits certain exceptions, none of those are present in the instant case. The CA then said that technicalities aside, the petition is still not meritorious.

The CA said there was no grave abuse of discretion by the RTC in issuing the injunction, as it was done after both sides in the controversy were given the chance to submit evidence and be heard.

The CA also said it was not required that an examined bank be furnished a copy of the ROE at least simultaneously with the submission of the report to the MB as monetary may be imposed upon it which may include closure and/or receivership by reason of such ROE.

Alleged confidentiality of the ROE may not be invoked as "it should not prevail over the constitutional right of the people to enforce and protect the exercise of their legal and effective safeguards to corruption," the CA said.

## New frontiers

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiroz*

MARKING ANY MAJOR BLUNDER BY BARACK Obama, the United States is going to see its first black president next year. And the way things are, Obama is about as likely to make a blunder over the next three weeks as John McCain is likely to make a game-changing move in that time frame. The last debate showed us: McCain was offensive throughout in more ways than one, trying to get a rise from Obama to make him out as the scary guy "palling around with terrorists," but all McCain did was cast himself in that role. As new 2020 panelist said in the post-debate spin session, Obama looked like he needed to take anger management sessions.

Obama remained cool and unruffled. So cool and unruffled he refused to crack a few jibes at McCain's side, though Governor Sarah Palin had ample opportunity to do so. He didn't go after his old rival's age or his health issues (but only because many issues could be better equipped to become president. He didn't say when McCain proposed that he invest more that he didn't get his passport only this year, unlike McCain's running mate. He didn't say when McCain characterized all rallies as having three shots of "fringe" people that the Democratic rallies did not have fringe people who shouted "McCain terrorist" and "Kill him!" and that their fringe people did not include their vice presidential hee.

He just stuck to his core message, which was the economy, the economy, the economy. Which seemed to have worked very well. At the end of three debates, 3-0.

Friends of mine of course have wondered: What if the polls are wrong? What if the interviewer just tried to look "real" and gave polls totally cockeyed answers, while the Republican armatures and planning to vote for the white guy in the end? Well, nothing is impossible, though some are far-fetched. The polls do make allowances for the racism factor, giving Obama a certain three points (here, not enough to overcome his own endearing hold over McCain. And there are extraordinary times for Americans. There are times when they've become oblivious to black and white and currently see green. Or the lack of it. Or the continuing erosion of it. Or the steady drop. promises only.

So, barring any last minute twist—which politics is not naturally home to—the United States is going to have its first black president next year. This is a watershed in history.

I do not know how far Obama will go to change US policy. As the campaign shows, he has no operator-within the confines of a treacherously conservative power structure that sees the most tenuous relationship with a William Ayers, a current professor who once harbored militant ideas, as the height of radicalism. As president-elect, of course, he has more leeway to go against the grain than as candidate. But the question is always by how much.

One thing I do know...which is probably the best way to gauge how far Obama will depart from orthodoxy: If McCain wins, he will cling with the tenacity of a bulldog to the Iraq War. Which is the most universal consequence for the US economy. With the serious domestic consequences for America's relations with its allies. And with the most disastrous consequences for America's image abroad.

Obama has promised to pull out of that war, to pursue America's diminished relations with the UN and various allies, and improve the way the world looks at the United States which currently sees only the put-ons outrage of symbols containing lighting bolts and swastikas. If he can do that, he'll have gone far toward undoing mistakes and policies Bush's, something the architects of the last couple of decades would find unacceptable.

One thing I do know as well, which is that Obama's victory by itself will already have gone a long way toward improving America's image before the world. It's not just because Obama is the world's choice for next US president, though that's quite a bit in itself. It's simply that I go back to something Time Magazine said in its 2000 edition of the 100 most important historians of the 20th century. One of them was Martin Luther King, and Time said that it couldn't understand why King's name attended only to the names, schools and hospitals of predominantly black neighborhoods. When his significance extended to the nation as a whole.

Perhaps King, Time said, the United States would never have had the credibility to claim to be a beacon of freedom to the world. The Iron Curtain of the 1950s would have had its counterpart in the Cotton Curtain of the American South. It was King who saved America from that image. It was King who saved America from that image.

Obama becoming the president of the United States pushes the envelope farther. The idea that America's investment into various parts of the world and propping up of tyrants in "friendly states" were part of a worn-out system is widely held. Not without basis. United States-behemoth for sure made an excellent case for the US suspension of the Philippines in 1896 as demon in great part by Hearst's racist newspapers.

Obama as president should restore that perception. It won't make it go away, but it will lessen it. The question of how the United States can possibly solve the woes of the colored peoples of the world when it can't solve the woes of its own should at least have new answers. It opens goodwill of monumental proportions, one that Obama will do well to exploit. And with policies that advance the cause of a fairer and better America. Or with policies that push back the current image of an ugly and arrogant America. One I personally see every time Mr. Cute smirks and talks about "that one."

The metaphysics I believe it's the worst of times, it's the best of times. One can only hope that what's true for America can be true for the world.

# The MOA-AD decision

SOUNDING BOARD
*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

WHEN THE 8-7 DECISION OF THE SUPREME Court declaring the MOA-AD unconstitutional came out, the initial reaction of not a few, myself included, was that the Supreme Court had killed a dead horse with no advisory opinion. After all, the President herself had already announced that the Memorandum, whether in the disputed form or any other form, would not be signed. Moreover, and the bid even disbanded the negotiating panel which had authored it. Moreover, she had begun to remedy one most glaring defect in the process of formulating the MOA by ordering extensive popular consultation.

In effect, the President had either confessed that she had made a mistake or at least that her subordinates had made a grievous mistake and she was going about remedying the mistake as soon as possible even if her action might be seen to making her negotiators the scapegoats.

Eight justices of the Supreme Court, however, thought otherwise. They with a record of vigorous disagreeing with the President, thought that the President should be told how she should conduct negotiations. Thus the 90-page opinion. On the other hand, seven justices, primarily because to the protection of executive power, preferred to see the MOA-AD die a natural death rather than to give it new could be more and look better next time.

Aside from the 90-page main opinion, there are 21 other pieces, some concurring and others dissenting. Using through them one will find that there really is more unanimity than what the 8-7 decision might indicate. There is a majority which would agree that there are provisions in the MOA-AD which depart from the present Constitution. The most notable of these would be the powers envisioned for the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE). The powers envisioned go beyond those presently granted to local government units and even those granted by the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The MOA-AD speaks of the relationship between the BJE and the Philippine government in "associative" that anything no intergovernmental relationship, and therefore suggesting an autonomous state. This goes beyond what the present Constitution has set up. Clearly, the MOA-AD authors were willing to say unlimited appreciation and to operate "out of the box" as other peace negotiators in other places have done.

It was seen that the signing of the aborted MOA-AD would have had the effect of rendering it a "done deal." A finalized MOA-AD would indeed have been unconstitutional. It would, however, be unconstitutional not automatically because it contained provisions which departed from the present Constitution but because those provisions would have been given life without following the constitutional provisions for achieving change in the Constitution. Thus the underlying assumption in the majority decision seems to be that, if the MOA-AD had been signed, it would have contained constitutional commitments which, even if not self-executing, would have obligatory implications.

Thus it was that eight justices of the Court felt impelled to send cease-directive to an executive department which they could not touch. The message of dismissal embodied in the majority's conviction that the MOA-AD was "capable of repetition to the future." They knew the MOA-AD was implicitly judged to be in real danger of being repeated in the current administration.

I do not enjoy the weakness. She seems to be swimming in a whirlpool of distress. The past strong challenges of some justices to "executive privilege" are affirmations of distress. Investigations in the Senate are strong signals of distrust. The emergence of impeachment moves is on as is the introduction of the word. And now the decision of the Court to Superflate the exercise of a decision mentioned here is another sign of distrust. Moreover, moves do not show a public approval crying the President can be proud of. Where will all this lead?

The book to the Court's decisions. Does the decision say that peace negotiators may not be authorized to propose amendments to the Constitution? Or, since peace negotiators are the President's arm, does the President herself, cited by the Court, is "preserve and defend" the Constitution except her from seeking for changes in the Constitution if needed to achieve peace?

The decision does not say that. After all, the President's oath binds her not just to "preserve and defend" the Constitution but also to "do justice to every man." Doing justice to every man may require her to work "out of the box." In other words, in order to do justice to all the Filipinos, she should do it through Congress which has the constitutional power to initiate constitutional change.

She could agree with the content of such advice, even if one believes that it is not the business of the Court to give advice. But to say consent with the content of the opening panel, I never got the impression that they wanted to be past Congress and to consolidate self-executing provisions.

Admittedly, however, the documents they produced lacks clarity. In their casuist efforts to produce language acceptable to people who do not want to give up Cotabato, the language engineering did not succeed in crafting a clear-cut line of ambiguity. But it is just as well that the issue is dead, even if the MOA decision will not rank among the hottest of 2008.

# The indignity of 'security measures'

COMMENTARY
*Jacqueline Cancio Vega*

"WHAT IS THE ABUSE THAT WE TOLERATE OR is daily basis because we do not see it as an abuse?"

Abuse is not just as set by government officials or employers. It can happen on a daily basis, in ways that inflict indignities and incivility on taxpayers and clients. There is talk of "security" of airport money. It can happen in the exclusive gated subdivisions that profoundly overcome non-family in living in. The so-called "security measures" in airport should in reality be more talked to the security by various players than about creating safety.

Why should we have to go through security measures in malls and exclusive subdivisions? Because it is to the point of inconvenience that we want that we do not have access to dirty and insecurity in the lives for our society that attitude does not be a good basis to make.

Progress and growth need a good measure of trust and cooperation. We want to believe that we are the same as a better life. We have deliberately the one that to the mind by choosing to learn the belief that the Filipinos cannot be trusted and that the poor are to be feared. This is not a basis for building a nation. The indignity of the security of thinking and security checks per year including on the number). I did the night) add up to a form of humiliation—the body carrying to search of bags. Don't we have the right to be treated with respect and trust, and I have the authority and power to look you and question on your motives with little regard for civility or to remember?

Is it because we consider them that the Filipino believes he is worthless little?

The scourge of the biggest and the poor was that have to subject everyone to the same dirty in order to catch a few bad guys. A long-term solution is to concentrate resources on the bad guys. But security does it because they are not troubled by regulations.

Other countries with elements of kindness and goodness through mixed land use, utilities and transportation systems have the ability to provide security and opportunity to choose good homes and work of different types in a reliable place we know to purchase better economically than places with less amenities.

What we have done it allows us diversity to enjoy having into the developer's spot that those who want to live in a place with security can do so and developers created communities and business areas are the greatest things I possess is not bias if it excluded opportunities for people to move up in the world by not providing housing that fit their income and lifestyle. There is value in different opportunities. But creating elements of haves and have nots—if people will houses that they cannot, modify over time and people will feel that they cannot afford to live in the area because of the cost of maintenance—effectively saying to people who have "You are not welcome here." Is not the right thing to do. I did the night) add up to a form of humiliation—effectively saying to people who have "You are not welcome here." If you do not modify or

# Disgusting heckler in Cabinet

I'D LIKE TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE the Inquirer for its Dec. 11 editorial titled "Heckler in the Cabinet." Many times, more specifically in the recent past, I have found the newspaper's editorials and opinion pieces, relative to the country and government, most conspicuous, enlightening, relevant and, I agree and with most of them and I have long wanted to express my wholehearted appreciation of and support for those views as they also expressed my own disgust at our country's predicament.

The Inquirer's stand on Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's position on the Tuchacho pardon and his condemnation of the Habagat rioters urban is in the mind of thousands, if not millions, of Filipinos like me. I am 70 years old and I have not seen or heard of such behavior among our government officials ... until now.

May I remind Mr. Gonzalez that Christians do not lack values when he is down and out. The Christians are growing and down. Let us not add to their anguish. They merit our sympathy and support.

To this No. 1 newspaper, its editors and staff, may your tribe increase! To Raul Gonzalez and his ilk, heaven help you.

—ALFREDO D. ORTEGA, 11 Road Drinks, 1103 Milagrosa, Barangay Sangandaan, QC

## Questions for Candaba mayor from a son of Pampanga

I'M NOT A REGISTERED VOTER IN Pampanga, but wherever I am, my emotions always compels me that my family hails from that province. I just can't understand why of all local officials in the province, the mayor of my father's town is the one spearheading the removal of Bird government May 1 just ask Mayor Jessy Mejias, who also happens to be an avid supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, some questions?

1. In my 52 years of simple existence, the Municipality have ruled "Filipinos hang Bahay" for almost 15 years. Sir, what has been done to the perennial flood problem that has ravaged Pampanga year in and year out, specifically Candaba? Sir, why does Pampanga lag behind Pangasinan in terms of economic readjustment?

2. Why is it that Pampanga until now doesn't have a state university or equivalent?

3. What is the current state of the health care system in the province? Does the province have decent district hospitals to deliver at least basic health care to the towns and barangays so that Pampanga residents don't have to go to San Fernando anymore for their healthneeds?

There are so many questions that come to my mind whenever our family pays a visit to our town in Pampanga. And how names a promising governor that knows nothing but honesty and devotion to good governance, yet the local officials of Pampanga were him out.

For you, Mayor Mejias and your cohorts of do-nothing, self-serving feudalistic politicians and a self-proclaimed President that should be removed and recalled from the face of Pampanga and the Philippines. Let honest, patriotic and God-loving Filipinos take your posts.

—ALFREDO LACANILAO, M.D., dlbomd@yahoo.com

## Resignation only way to repair CA

THE DECISION OF THE SUPreme Court regarding the scandal at the Court of Appeals shows that we are not ready for reform. In my view, it did not restore the integrity of the justice system. The justices involved in the controversial fifth-Member case should have been asked to resign because like Caesar's wife, they should be above suspicion.

For instance, it is appalling to know that Justice José Salas Jr. was working nonstop in talking to the alleged Father Francis de Jesus (he should know better; after all, he teaches ethics at the Ateneo de Manila College of Law); and that his brother Camilo Salas of the Presidential Commission on Good Government seems not to know what is right or wrong.

Now it is up to the justices involved in this anomalous case to resign for the sake of "delicadeza." This is the only way that the integrity of the Court of Appeals can be restored.

—JOSE C. PADUGUEROS, upugs@hotmail.com

## American troops have never left RP

CONTRARY TO CERTAINTY that American soldiers have overstayed and multiplied, and that US facilities have expanded, apparently beyond the terms of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita is unconditionally commanded that, "as if they never leave," American troops "come and go." Likewise, Secretary Gilberto Teodoro added that, under the VFA, the American Ute could even go and stay "anywhere" in the country.

In his time, ex-President Carlos Gonzalez declared that "The best men of America is humora." After World War II, the American Ambassador in Washington, D.C. missed the policy of containment, maintaining socialist countries with US military bases, like those in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines for Red China, and those in Germany and Turkey for Soviet Russia.

With the advent of the 21st century, the American strikes in the White House and the Pentagon launched a project which has caused China and Israel Iraq into embarrassment and placed to all-under US control. The project is called Iran, Syria and North Korea as an "Axis of Evil" which can

ing extension eyes on the oil of Iran which would outlaw the oil supplies from South Arabia and Iraq.

[illegible] 20 Internet sites in the Philippines, regardless of the sentiment of the Filipino people and the Philippine Senate. The Philippines has become a US factory to the economic slaves of Japan, China and Southeast Asia, blindness alone serves the geopolitical needs of Washington over Beijing.

Indeed, American soldiers from the time of Admiral George Dewey to the inconsistency of Ambassador Francis Kenney have overlooked unwisely have not gone. In the pursuit of its national interest, and to maximize its presence in the Philippines, the United States has doggedly offered all forms of cooperation with the Philippine government and with the Ramos National Liberation Front or even with the devil—from the extension of RP-US "special relationship" to a more formal but ridiculous "RP-US Alliance", and from the original Military Bases Agreement in perpetuity to a continuous VFA without expiration.

—ARTEMIO LAVIÑA, retired ambassador, edarinal@hotmail.com

## Cunanan wrong, failed to get her facts straight

THIS IS WITH RESPECT TO MELINDA QUINTOS CUNANAN'S column titled "Crime and punishment, SC style." (INQUIRER, 9/13/00). Cunanan's statement that "Justice Myrna D. Dimaranan-Vidal's admission that she signed the decision even before she could read it deserves close scrutiny for any party, accord, or a lack of probity or the abuse of Pinoy virtue of patience, or the very least" is an absolute falsehood and very irresponsible.

It is clear that Cunanan did not bother to read the Sept. 5, 2000 Supreme Court decision on CA-GR SP No. 53082 before writing that article. Cunanan should know that there is nothing in the decision that states that Justice Vidal signed the ruling before she could read it. Neither did Justice Vidal admit in her affidavit and in her testimony before the panel that she signed the decision without reading the same.

In fact, on Page 26 of the Supreme Court decision, the tribunal said that "after a careful and judicious study of the more than 26-page decision of Justice Bonar, Justice Dimaranan-Vidal signed it." On page 40 of the decision, the Court quoted the findings of the panel, to wit: "However, scrutiny, nonetheless, during the sala, while Justice Dimaranan-Vidal was personally poring over her decision. Justice Bonar was persuaded to bring his decision to the Eighth Division." This crystal clear pronouncement of the Supreme Court shows that Cunanan does not verify her facts or, simply does not understand them.

It is rather both distasteful and sad – to say the least – that a very responsible columnist of the country's leading newspaper miserably failed to take her ignorance of the subject-of her column; or worse, that, as a journalist, she neglected her obligation to state the facts accurately.

—EDERSON C. NICOLAS, chief-of-staff, Office of Justice Myrna Dimaranan-Vidal, Court of Appeals, Manila

## Actually, Stradcom is doing wonders for LTO

DEMARING. THIS DESCRIBES BOT THE cavalier attitude shown by Ramon Tulfo in his Oct. 11 column, where he took liberty in outlining the opinion of 36 others, the company that undertakes the computerization program of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

In three short paragraphs, Tulfo, on the basis of mere "reports," cast aspersions on the integrity of the company. Bopa in front robots, if we may ask him? No wonder, Tulfo threw so many libel suits.

A responsible columnist making an accusation must come up with, at the very least, a shred of evidence. But Tulfo offered none whatsoever, as if the mere being made by a lawmaker were enough basis to malign a company which had brought wonders to the operations of the LTO.

I know very little about Stradcom, except that it has just received the promotion of driver's licenses and the registration of motor vehicles at the LTO. That much I know.

I was motivated to write the Inquirer this letter because I found the present system at the LTO to my liking. Enough of the old manual system which took eternity to process licenses and register vehicles.

—RUDY DELLARO, rdbelgarde@yahoo.com

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# Obama raises stunning $150M

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRATIC CANDIdate Barack Obama raised more than $150 million in September, a stunning and unprecedented eruption of political giving that may given him the spending advantage over rival John McCain.

The campaign released the figure on Sunday, one day before it must file a detailed report of its monthly finances with the Federal Election Commission.

Obama's money is fueling a vast campaign operation in an expanding field of competitive states, including some that are a must for both national and targeted video advertising across before the presidential contest.

Campaign manager David Plouffe, in an e-mail to supporters, said the campaign had added 632,000 new donors in September, for a total of 3.1 million contributors in the campaign. He said the average donation was $66.

The Democratic National Committee, meanwhile today announced it raised $40.9 million and had $27.5 million in the bank at the start of October. The party has been raising money through joint fundraising events with Obama and can use the money to assist his candidacy.

Obama's numbers are possible because he opted out of the public financing system for the fall campaign.

McCain chose to participate in the system, which limits him to $84 million for the September-October month before the election.

Obama initially promised to accept public financing if McCain did, but changed his mind after vetting primary fundraising records. AP

# It's Palin vs 'Palin' on 'Saturday Night Live'

From page A1

rena Tina Fey portraying her in John McCain's stunning cameo in a spoof press conference.

The 36J hair-do, little red jacket and rimmed glasses were perfect. So too were Fey's Palin-style smiles, smirks, twenty secret and side-of-the-eye-ly leanings.

Then the viewers cut outside the studio to the real Palin—the moose-hunting, moi-hockey loving governor of Alaska—watching her interview on a monitor.

Palin, whom Fey has relied heavily on for material, seemed slow lagging in the polls ahead of the Nov. 4 election but is not deterred her vision of humor.

The show opened with a mock press conference in which Palin's spokesperson requested that the press "don't write anything down."

Fey then appeared in Palin red issued off a few remarks decrying the "lazy portrayals of candidates," as "I am looking forward to a portion of your questions," a reference to her resistance in practice of answering questions by addressing her own chosen topics.

Asked if her recent research about presidents states meant there were any unpresidential states, Fey as Palin smirked off some of Obama's early-leaning stories such as New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and California.

Palin replaced Fey in the fake press conference and lumped to a rap song defending her political and home states all against a background of phony Eskimos and an impersonator of her husband.

The audience cheered at a large, theatrical moose that ran on the set, followed by the sound of gunshots as the moose fell to the stage, a joke on Palin's fondness for hunting.

Throughout the bit, Palin rocked back and forth in her anchor seat, pumping her arms in the air to time with the music.

At the close of the song, Palin, still flashing that trademark smile, said, "I'm Sarah Palin. Goodnight and have a pleasant tomorrow."

This time the viewers tune in a week, find the Republican ticket, which does Democrats Barack Obama and Joseph Biden in a hotnight, tried to confront television comedy's dominion.

McCain appeared on Thursday on CBS' Late Show with David Letterman, who has made fun of the candidate ever since he canceled another appearance last month.

But if McCain ceremoniously took the fight to Letterman—for example, joking that his first act as president would be to order the comedian off Letterman—Palin played strong.

## Hotter in person

Palin was so unstoppable from her debutable fury that Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin appeared to rejuvenate.

He was shown telling Saturday Night Live producer Lorne Michaels that they could not be Fey, John Palin, "that hasn't We powers" who "gave us our comeback." Telling "we must be" Michaels then pointed out to Baldwin that they were standing across Palin, not Fey.

Baldwin said to Fey: "You are very better in person."

Palin scored a point back by telling Baldwin that she preferred his brother, host Alec Alec Baldwin's host including him overall more of her growing number of celebrity nicknames "Caribou Barbie."

When comedian rapper Amy Poehler sang "all the moments in the house, put your hands up"—pulling fun at the McCain ticket's "maverick" claim—Palin obliged.

Among the lyrics: "From my porch I can see, Russia and sushi," a reference to Palin's notorious comment that Alaska's proximity to Russia was emblematic of a measure of foreign policy experience.

## Crossing the line

Earlier, Palin told her host on the 60 that she had decided not to do the rap song herself, although acknowledging it had been "really fun."

"It might be hard for the campaign," she said. "After giving in a lot of thought I think it might just cross the line."

Palin, warming up at God and guns Republicans and Washington outsider, has energized the party faithful, but polarized many others.

Critics on the Alaskan governor, who sees Hollywood as nationally liberal, are being picked out by McCain, to not ready for the vice presidency.

Her performance solidify in her core debate against Biden, but faltered in television interviews and—as like her impersonator Fey—Fey got to give a press conference.

Satirical news shows like "The Colbert Report" and Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" along with jokes by chat show hosts Letterman and Jay Leno have given viewers outrageous comparing her often framed to trivial, media-saturated era.

Palin's wounding among Republicans is largely unscathed by all the satire.

A poll last week by PEW Research and Huffington College Institute of Public Opinion found that Palin's favorability rating with Republicans dropped only 3 percentage points to 79 percent after a live skit.

Reports from AFP and Reuters

# McCain cuts Obama lead to 3 points

From page A1

Gain is up about 45 percent," pollster John Zogby said, referring to the latest Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby poll. "There is no question something has happened."

If that trend continues, it is something that has got to taken out flags for Obama. It suggests to me that his command lead of comfortable many for an unadvantage as it is now."

Zogby said the numbers probably reflect a change following McCain's performance in the third and final presidential debate on Wednesday.

He said the Arizona senator appeared to have rebuilded his support with the Republican base—where nine out of 10 voters now back him—and won also gaining ground among the independents who may have a decisive role in the Nov. 4 election.

Obama's lead among independent voters dropped to 8 percentage points on Sunday from 16 points a day earlier.

## Obama leads in other polls

Other national polls have given Obama a double-digit overall lead, fueled by perceptions that he would do a better job managing the faltering economy and unhappiness with McCain's efforts to calm over the past week.

Obama, 47, who would be the first black president, enjoy strong support among black, Hispanic, Catholic and women voters while the 72-year-old McCain holds a narrow lead among male and white voters.

Women, who are expected to be an important factor in the election, still favor Obama by a 6-point margin, although this has been declining in recent days.

Independent Ralph Nader drew 1.3 percent support in the latest poll, conducted Saturday through Tuesday, while Libertarian Bob Barr registered 1 percent both little changed.

The rolling tracking poll surveyed 1,208 likely voters. Its tracking poll, the most recent day's results are added while the oldest day's results are dropped in an effort to track changing momentum.

## Close warfare

Obama was buoyed by the astonishing numbers he attracted on Saturday in Missouri, which voted for Republican President George W. Bush in the last two elections.

The day's first crowd in St. Louis numbered at least 100,000—Obama's biggest yet in the United States. An evening rally in Kansas City likewise drew big numbers. Both attracted more than 75,000 supporters.

Obama said the enormous turnouts were proof that "the winds are blowing for change across America," as he bids to flip red states into Democratic "blue."

In an outbreak of class warfare, McCain likened Obama to European socialists who advocate redistributing wealth as he disparately tried to revive his populist charm.

Obama countered by accusing his rival of being "out of touch" with the struggles of middle-class Americans who need "a break."

The presidential candidates swapped sharply worded charges over tax cuts, each accusing the other of shortchanging middle-income Americans at a time of economic hardship for millions.

## Like 'Rocky'

McCain has become increasingly aggressive in debates, personal appearances and—in the past few days—nationalist phrase calls as the polls showed time behind nationally as well as in crucial states battleground states.

The US-60 underdog is not considered bullet; it is some of how on a train by some birds, with the most populous states leading the most electoral votes.

McCain campaigned in North Carolina and Virginia, a pair of traditionally Republican states he is struggling to hold, stoke-to-stoke in the Mason-Dixon poll released on Oct. 16. The number he matched least to the day closing are outdoor appearances in Woodbridge, Virginia.

The session took the stage to the theme song of "Rocky," a movie about an underdog and comeback fighter, who beat his big fight to the final scene of the film.

McCain accused his rival of wanting to "re-ignite the 1960s class warfare of redistribution as a grand welfare agency redistributing massive amounts of wealth at the discretion of politicians in Washington."

"At least in Europe, the socialist leaders refuse to admit my opponent are upfront about their objectives," he said before rally audience.

"They are real numbers and honest language. And our splendid democratic republic from Socialist Obama. Raising taxes on some in order to give thanks to others is not a tax cut, it's just socialism government redistribution."

Obama responded later in his appearance in St. Louis, saying his deal "would not be true for the same people who have already been waiting out his handle, in some cases literally."

Amidst a new day marketing US economy, uncertainty over the wisdom of McCain's choice of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate and The Republicans' divisive character attacks against Obama in the last month all have been noted as possible reasons for McCain's recent drop in most polls.

The differences between the two men on issues have been present from the early days of the campaign, but lately they have attained greater prominence in the wake of a credit crunch, deep declines in the stock market and rising joblessness.

For weeks, Obama has been ahead in national polls, but his leads have varied. While one major poll gave him a 14-point lead early this week, the daily Gallup tracking poll Saturday showed an 8-point advantage. Reports from Reuters, AP and AFP


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# SC asked to declare 'torture' camp a crime scene

From page A1

**Transferring suspected wife...**

In an urgent motion, lawyer Eve Fernandez cited orders he said were although by unidentified people to break into the now abandoned area.

Fernandez filed the motion last week after a fact-finding team of human rights advocates visited Barangay Bliss in Liloan, Batanes, and dug up what are thought to be the remains of human bones and personal articles, like a yellow slipper, a shirt and a mattress.

He acted on behalf of the mothers Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, who have been searching for the part two years for their missing daughters, UP students Karen Empeño, Karen Empeño and Karen Empeño. Their daughters' companion, Manuel Merino, has also been missing.

The lawyer asked the court to order the local government and the police of Liloan to protect any evidence of crime in the area from "contamination, suppression and concealment."

**Marinal's slippers**

He also asked that the high windows in cities the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the human committee on justice and human rights, and the human-rights group European to continue with their investigation and with their search for other "buried sites" in the area.

The fact-finding group made digging in the area on Monday and Tuesday last week. They were diverted to the place by former detainee Raymund Manalo, who said a detachment of the Philippine Army's 24th Infantry Battalion used to be located there.

Manalo has said it was in the same place where he and his brother Reynaldo were held by their military captors and where Merlyn, Karen and Illuminado were also detained and tortured, he said it was also there where Merlin was allegedly "buried."

The brothers escaped in 2007 after 10 months in captivity. Manalo said Merlin was wearing a pair of yellow rubber slippers when he last saw him.

**Camp 'erased'**

Fernandez said police escorts who were with the fact-finding group "reported that there were attempts by unidentified persons to intrude into the area on the night of Oct. 13." He asked the tribunal to place the area under certain light, in court opinion.

He said "the whole camp" pointed to by Raymund Manalo also showed evidence of "acts to conceal the area and to make the area unidentifiable as a military camp."

"All visible signs of military encampment [were] erased," Fernandez said.

The lawyer, who was with the fact-finding team, told concerned that what they saw the camp had been broken and the posts thereon erased.

**Evidence might be removed**

He said Manalo had also pointed to where military structures used to stand and where bodies had been dug. People in the community had also confirmed that they used to be a military camp in the area, he said.

He said there was danger "that the area might be entered into again and although will be made to take out evidence and clean the place further."

Fernandez said the two-day CHR inspection gave the group just enough time to undertake digging and that Manalo had pointed to the primary sight other possible burial sites.

The Manalo brothers have been granted a writ of amparo by the Court of Appeals. The writ is aimed at protecting people from harassment by security forces and also compels the military to help locate missing people.

In supporting the appellate court's action in the Manalo case, the high court also upheld its findings linking members of the military—including retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan—to the abduction of the Manalo brothers.

# 11 candles, prayers for blast victims

From page A1

ends once to the still-closed section of Shoreview I, the group let 11 candles on the pavement—in memory of the 11 lives that suddenly intersected there on Oct. 19, 2007, only to share a terrible end.

A 20-minute prayer was offered for Jaime Morten Arroyo, Maria Celeste Cruz, Jes Ann de Guzia, Jose Allen de Jesus, Maureen de Leon, Liza Enriquez, Anilou Manera, Lyanz Alba Evangelista, Ricardo Dejesus, Rosita Tan, and Cristie Wilo Velasco.

Every a hundred others were injured in the explosion, whose cause continued to be a subject of contention between the Philippine National Police and the mall's owner, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI).

"I never really wanted to be here today. I've never been to Glorietta since the day it happened to my daughter," Mercedes de Leon, mother of 21-year-old Analiz Manrose, told the Filipinos.

"But when I asked myself: When would be the right time? And so, finally, I'm doing this today."

**'Good girl'**

In an interview with the Inquirer, De Leon said she would always remember "Nini" as a "good girl" who served as a model for her three siblings and her cousins.

Later in the day, she said, Nini's friends from high school and college, as well as officemates, would be joining her at the family residence in Lapu, Quezon City in the marked her "Nobong Lolos" (a Catholic vocation for reading one's period of mourning).

De Leon said she could not help but worry and even had an urge to "shout" out loud the name of her eldest child at one point during yesterday's 10 a.m. gathering. This was when the cries another grieving mother holding up the picture of another victim, Jes Ann de Guzia, 28.

Maureen and Jes Ann were friends. The two computer programmers were having lunch at Glorietta 2 when the explosion ripped through the building.

Jes Ann's body was retrieved by the authorities earlier hours after the blast, while Maureen's was pulled out of the rubble three days later.

**Gas leak or bomb?**

The PNP maintained that the explosion was caused by a mixture of methane and diesel that leaked from the mall's basement. Combining his own probe, however, ALI concluded it was caused by a bomb.

The Department of Justice has filed criminal charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries against eight officers and staff members of ALI lessee Makati Supermarket Corp., Metrobank, Industrial Sales & Services, and corporate company Metrolink, but it cleared ALI officials of any liability.

Jenet de Guzia, Jes Ann's mother, said that while she had accepted the family's terrible loss, those responsible for what the PNP had insisted to be an "industrial accident" should still be prosecuted.

"We took the P5 million in cash offered to us by ALI, but we were the second to the last to do so. My husband will pursue the case at the Justice Department," De Leon pointed out.

Family members representing four of the 11 victims took part in the commemoration.

Denis Simmons, who led a delegation of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) to the rites, said he received text messages from the other families saying they were holding their "battang lolos" in private.

The explosion, Simmons stressed, should be a reminder to all owners of commercial establishments to put consumer safety and security on top of their concerns, especially at the holiday season soon.

There was no ALI representative present during the brief rites. The Simmons spokesperson that the company held a special Mass for the victims on Friday.


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Across the NATION

# Key Panlilio aide asked to resign

## Exec closest to governor-priest blamed for divisiveness in gov's camp

CITY OF SAN Fernando Leaders of the good governance movement Kaya Natin! supporting Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio have asked the provincial administrator to resign in the best interest of the Kapampangan.

ASKED TO draw closer to a child during his interaction with his constituents in Pampanga.

Harvey Keh, a leader of Kaya Natin!, announced the group's call for Sanjoy Vicher Pinlac to quit, in the media forum Tuluyan sa Rampanan in Metro Manila on Sunday.

"While we continue to solidly stand behind Governor Panlilio, we feel that it will be in the best interest of the people of Pampanga for Administrator Pinlac to resign or for Governor Panlilio to withdraw his support for him," he said, he told the INQUIRER by telephone.

Pinlac's resignation, he said, would be "a step towards uniting the province and delivering better basic services for the people of Pampanga."

The group clarified, however, that it would condemn or support Panlilio's decision on this issue.

Reached by phone on Sunday, Panlilio thanked his colleagues for expressing their views. Despite this and previous claims by other groups, Panlilio said he was not inclined to heed their suggestions.

"It has been my position to retain [Pinlac] and to remain his ranks. [Budget officer] Ofelia Mendiola were hired[by the Dabo and Amanda recommended] and we are looking for another person who will head [the quarry special commission]. Dabo. We are shooting for a short of mark," he said.

Sought for comment about the call for his resignation, Dabo said: "It is the governor who appointed me. I work at his prerogative. I'm looking it up to him."

Civil society leaders have blasted Dabo for the rare, month protest of 18 former quarry workers over non-compliance with an agreement to unconditionally reinstate them to work.

They said it appointed that those who want Panlilio to resign or he recalled have rallied around the name of the ousted senators.

Most of the 13 members of Panlilio's provincial board said they left because they had difficulty in dealing with Dabo.

Others fled Dabo to be very legalistic and she lacks skills in human relations.

Dabo, 42, said she was merely being efficient with her work and trying to implement what the laws prescribe.

In separate phone interviews, Imbalia Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca, Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, San Isidro (Nueva Ecija) Mayor Sonia Lorenzo and Baguio Gov. Nestora Baguilat Jr. confirmed their group's position in calling for Dabo's resignation.

The recommendation, they said, was made along efforts to help the province further the civil society sectors in the province.

Padaca, Robredo and Lorenzo said their suggestions came after consultations with civil society leaders, discussions with Panlilio and deliberations within the group.

"Among [Father] Gov has a lot of trust and confidence in [Dabo] but some felt that she has been isolating others who want to help the governor," said Padaca. Rosette Arcejo, *Inquirer Central Luzon*


AYURVEDA'S ANSWER TO ARTHRITIS

Pain, pain, go away.


## NEWSBRIEFS

■ SORSOGON CITY

### NPA rebel slain

A REBEL was killed in a firefight with government troops earlier this week, the military said.

Capt. Rizalmigh Baricuatro, chief military operations officer of the 901st Infantry Battalion, identified the fatality as Antonio Garcia Jr., alias Ganap, 32, of Barangay Sua, Pilar, Sorsogon.

Baricuatro said the Army soldiers of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion and members of the 903rd Provincial Police Mobile Group were on a mission in Barangay Jamotlangan when they encountered the rebels at 10 a.m. They recovered one .45 cal. pistol, a magazine with nine bullets, a cell phone, a wallet and a shoulder bag with personal belongings.

**Rio Etwaida**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ TAYABAS CITY

### Student dies in blast

A HIGH school student was killed and two others were seriously injured after a grenade they found earlier accidentally exploded in the village of Nasi in Tayabas, police said.

Rey John Pardo, 17, was dead before reaching the Quezon Medical Center in Lucena City. His companions—Warren Lore, 16, and Nicolas Labado Jacadilla, 16—had serious body injuries.

Police said the casualties were inside Pardo's house when the MOLO grenade they found in a field exploded.

**Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Cop hurt in road mishap

A MOTORCYCLE-RIDING police lieutenant was seriously hurt when he was dumped by a car along the Maharlika Highway on Wednesday night.

PO3 Sheryl Zanas, who is assigned to the Calauag town police station, suffered serious body injuries, police said. The car overshot the speed limit and hit the cop.

**Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ BATANGAS CITY

### Doctor shot dead

TWO unidentified men shot and killed a doctor at his home in Pallocan West, Batangas City, on Friday, Supt. Manuel Abe, city police chief, said the attackers purportedly waited to buy the bicycle of the victim, Dr. Marlo Nieto, 48, at around 12:30 p.m.

Perez was negotiating the sale when the two hotgirls rode him using shot in the body by the gunmen who quickly fled.

Abe said he was exploring Nieto's alleged involvement in illegal drugs and firearms. The victim was also into the money lending business.

**Marvin Dela Cruz and Ira**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ DAGUPAN CITY

### Top rural bank

DAGUPAN Sun's pioneering bank, the Rural Bank of Dagupan Inc. (RBD), was named best rural bank in Southern Mindanao for the third straight year.

It was also named the fourth best among the country's 420 rural banks for 2007 during the search sponsored by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

"RBD got the same recognition in 2003, 2005 and 2006 in the regional level," Benalyd Bautista, the bank's vice president, said.

The team and banks were chosen based on organizational management, business operations and financial management, pass on data to small farmers and fishermen, and partnership with the LBP.

**John S. Aquino**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

### Gov't OKs talks with Bravo on kidnapping

COTABATO CITY— The government has formed a team to negotiate for the release of a Mindanao State University official seized by a breakaway group of rogue Moro rebel leader Abdullah Macapaan alias Commander Bravo in Lanao del Sur.

Jesrice Dept. Dimaporo, spokesperson of the police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the group of Lanao del Sur Gov. Amenodin Adiong, who heads the Crisis Management Committee, will try to contact the captors of Hyacinth Millora.

Millora, 54, was driving home with his wife to Iligan City from the MSU campus in Marawi City when flagged down by armed men in Barangay Bubong, Ingudanan, Lanao del Norte on Oct. 16.

"We do the negotiations, but we are not yet using force," Dimaporo said.

Bravo said the kidnappers have not yet made contact with any of Millora's relatives. As of Oct. 19, Macapaan, Dimaporo and Millora


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# BIR sued for order taxing sugar co-ops

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE COOPERATIVE OF Negros sugar farmers went to court on Friday to stop the Bureau of Internal Revenue from taxing sugar farmers' cooperatives.

Named respondents in the petition that was filed in the Bacolod Regional Trial Court were the BIR commissioner and the bureau's Region 12 director, Rubito Galante.

The Negros Sugar Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NSFMPC) asked the court to stop the BIR from imposing Revenue Regulations No. 13-2008 that would tax cooperatives starting Oct. 22, saying it was "patently illegal and illegal."

Eufrosina "Chit" Escudero, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, told sugar planters to fight the BIR order.

BIR's Revenue Regulation No. 13-2008 violates the Philippine Constitution and the cooperatives Code of the Philippines and is therefore invalid, claimed lawyer Jesus Ramos, counsel for NSFMPC.

The United Cane Farmers Association will file a similar petition in court today, according to Ramos.

Fr. Armando Ortiz, chair of the Silay-Hinigaran Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc., yesterday said that if BIR fails to agree to the commissioner-chief they were seeking, his cooperative would also file a petition by TRO against the BIR. The new revenue regulation is imposed on Oct. 22.

The NSFMPC petition said it has been granted tax exemption through a ruling of the office of the BIR commissioner that under the new revenue regulations's definition of agricultural cooperatives, as cooperatives of farmers or producers of sugar can now qualify for tax exemption.

The new revenue regulations, it said, arbitrarily likened an agricultural cooperative to an agricultural corporation.

CEBU BEAUTY
Local travel desk explores the Bohol River in Magsaysay, southwest of Cebu. The local government is trying to develop the area as a tourism destination to rival Palawan.

# Con artists hack doc's e-mail, dupe her friends

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—RENAME OF e-mails purportedly from friends "desperately asking" for money.

A hacker acutely victimized the friends of a Negrense doctor who gained access to the doctor's e-mail address after sending messages saying the doctor was mugged in London and needed money right away.

Dr. Cora Baldevia of Silay City said on Wednesday one of her friends who knew she was not in London informed her about an e-mail asking for financial assistance.

Based on the e-mail sent to her friends on Tuesday, the hacker claimed that Baldevia was in London when some pickpocket robbed her while she was on the way to the hotel. The hacker said that the Philippine Embassy and the police have yet to provide assistance.

The hacker also asked the recipients for a loan to make arrangements for a new passport and pay for the hotel bills.

Baldevia said she tried to open her e-mail but she could not do so because the hacker had changed her password.

She said she had to call the head office of Globe in Cebu to ask for access to her e-mail.

The Globe personnel asked her several security questions before she was allowed to open her e-mail address again, Baldevia said.

She added that she was told to change her password right away.

"Luckily, I got my e-mail back and I was able to change my password and read all the e-mails and his replies to those who extended help. Then, I was able to stop some transactions right away," she said.

She said the others to the hacker as "he" because when she checked her Globe e-mail account information on the account, it showed that the hacker changed her gender to male, his occupation to computer multimedia and his home address to MOSCOW.

On Wednesday, when Baldevia finally obtained access to her e-mail address, she sent messages to her friends informing them that she was okay and was at home in Silay City.

# PNP chief tells probers: Widen search for Balao

BALAO

PORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Director General Jesse Versoza, Philippine National Police chief, has instructed the Baguio City police to dig deeper in to the disappearance of activist Jonas Balao.

He said the police must widen their investigation beyond an allegation that a military unit had abducted Balao, a founding member of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance who has been missing since Sept. 17.

"Witness was here on Saturday as guest during the recognition rites for the 269 members of the Philippine Military Academy's "Bagwis (Buguing Kawal sa mga Bonag Lahat)" Class of 2002.

## Augura bid

CPA officials said Balao's family had petitioned a Benguet regional trial court to issue a writ of amparo on Father Oshiah, after they spent the month of September visiting military camps in Northern Luzon to track down the activist.

A writ of amparo compels law enforcers to release anyone they have detained beyond the period that is prescribed by law. Otherwise, the writ obliges government to search and recover the missing person.

The petition filed by the Balao family is addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and all law enforcement agencies, including the military whose officials had denied reports that they were holding Balao. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

# Miller tows Aces past Painters

## Barako end losing streak, hand Kings a first defeat

By Cobbitty Tapas

ALASKA'S WILLIE MILLER TALOUT a young Rain or Shine team a lesson in closing out games last night as the veteran guard provided the late scoring punch he purged the Aces past the Elasto Painters, 91-84, in the 32nd PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Miller knocked in seven straight points in a span of 1 minute 18 seconds as the Aces regained the lead, 85-78, after blowing a 20-point advantage in the third quarter.

The heroics effectively knotted another late surge by the Elasto Painters, who fell to 2-2, after winning their two games this season.

"We have the best closer in the league in Willie Miller," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, whose team tightened its grip on the lead with a 6-0 send. "It's always good to have a veteran presence down the stretch."

In the second game, Red Bull finally barged into the win column, lodging down Barangay Ginebra, 100-94.

The Kings ruined most of the way by double-digit and before they tried to initiate a rally the Barako would find a way to quell it.

Red Bull improved to 1-3 while Ginebra dropped to 2-1.

A blowout victory seemed inevitable for the Aces after they erected a 73-52 lead on Jeffrey Dariano's jumper with 2:03 remaining in the third period.

But Alaska could only muster a single field goal in the next seven minutes, while the Elasto Painters, thriving on six up-tempo trips, went on a 26-6 tear to tie the game at 78 on Joy-R. Reyes' short run with 3:16 remaining.

"We lost our energy level in the fourth quarter and allowed them to come back," said Cone.

But Miller made sure Alaska remained the only team that the Asian Coatings franchise has yet to beat since it entered the league in 2006.

Miller, who also grabbed 10 rebounds, scored on a hard-driving jumper over rookie Solomon Mercado and finishing it, a trip with two minutes remaining.

**ALASKA 91**—Miller 25, Brown 10, Dela Cruz 13, Reyes 10, Custer 5, De Ocampo 7, Yeo 2, Arnaiz 6, Fonacier 2, Jr-Bo 2, Bolick 2, 0

**GIN. 94**—Baro 0, Mamuyac 14, Ahmad 12, Eng 9, Mercado 3, Ah. 7, Lanz 2, Wilson 6, Sotomayor 3, Jordan 2, Salas 2

**Quarters**: 23-22, 22-18, 14-18, 19-16

**Second Game**

**RED BULL 100**—Santos 18, Ramos 12, Mendoza 19, Hubalde 12, Alcuaz 13, Pichaymaki 7, Cruz 4, Dario 5, Mendoza 2, Sapsalis 7, Arabejo

**GINEBRA 94**—Mahinhinit 22, Reyes 10, Jalosjos 12, Wilson 10, Salado 6, Urbiztondo 4, Arnaiz 6, Mark 3, Mark's Dealmeda 5, Asher 0, Yamamoto 5

**Quarters**: 30-22, 19-30, 19-42, 19-04

CHINA GOLF

# Strong Murakami finish with 65

GUANGZHOU, CHINA—UNMANNED by a poor third round, Ayumu Murakami responded with the best score of the entire past 45 to vault the top 10 list of the $500,000 Mission Hills China Classic won by Korean teenager Noh Seung-yul Sunday.

The lone 20-hole survivor from a five-man Filipino contingent, Murakami, with earlier rounds of 71, 66-75, recorded up-to-date results 275 to join solo man on for 10th place.

The lowly long-hitting Murakami picked up $5,833 (about P259,166) and moved two notches up in the Asian Order of Merit at 39th with total earnings of $87,475.

Just ahead of him in the AOM are Angelo Que (16th) and Juvic Pagunsan (18th), who both passed up the tournament.

### Youngest winner

The 17 year-old Noh became the third youngest winner on the Asian Tour after fighting off a spirited challenge from Yuxy Pikulchit of Australia, shooting a 68 for a one-stroke win with a 17 under-par 267 total.

Singapore's Marden Shamat rejoiced his third top-10 finish of his Asian Tour season by ending his campaign in Auckland, place to-gether with Korea's Park Jae-won and Chinese Taipei's Lu Wei-chih on matching 284s.

Noh, who had maintained a nice mayonnaise throughout the week, finally broke into a smile when he lifted the trophy and the $70,000 winner's check.

"I always try to control my emotions when I play as I tend to front easily on my game. Maybe I should listen to other more now and enjoy my game," said Noh, who is the third youngest player after Thailand's Chinnarat Phadungsil and Korea's Kim Do-whan to win a title on the Asian Tour.

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The convenient scanning function allows users to enlarge or reduce images from 50% to 200% in both preset and 1% increment values, and automatically collates copies for convenience. Its handy positioned one-touch copying buttons give you fast and easy access to utilize your favorite copy output such as collate/2-on-1 feature, 2-sided, color/grayscale/duplex, and image quality customization.

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**DID YOU KNOW**

ERROL 14, 1945, June? Laurel months "declaration of independence" from Japanese rule before crowd outside the old legislative building in Manila. For the first time since the Japanese occupation, the Philippine national anthem was played and the country's flag was raised. Laurel then took his oath of office as the country's president.

Cyril... Academic Aquino Award

# Sandigan orders mayor's suspension on graft raps

By DJ Yap

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ORDERED THE SUSpension of Rodrigues Mayor Pedro Cuerpo and three other town officials for 90 days on the strength of a graft complaint filed by several evicted residents in 2004, it has provincial officials said yesterday.

In an Oct. 3 resolution—copies of which were sent to reporters by the Rizal public information office—the First Division of the graft court granted a motion to suspend Cuerpo and the other accused "pendente lite" or while the case is pending.

Ordered suspended along with Cuerpo were Rodriguez municipal engineer Fernando Reyes, Salvador Sarabaldo, a barangay chair and Renante Romero, a police officer who Cuerpo said was killed in an ambush four years ago.

The motion seeking the mayor's suspension was filed by Ombudsman Special Assistant Prosecutor Maria Janice Hidalgo, Rizal officials said.

The Ombudsman earlier said it found sufficient grounds to charge Cuerpo, et al with violating Section 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

But Cuerpo, in an interview, said the suspension order "was not (yet) finalized and executory."

"We filed a motion for reconsideration last week. The court should have to resolve that," he said, adding that the Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on a pending motion by the private complainants for the presiding justice to inhibit himself from the case.

In their complaint filed at the Office of the Ombudsman in 2004, residents of Barangay Burgos said that "Mayor Cuerpo, et al took advantage of their official positions, conspired, acted in bad faith and manifested partiality in the unlawful demolition of (their) lands and transportery shelters ..."

The complainants were identified as Lorena Sioson, Nancy Bautista, Ernesto Bustad, Ma. Victoria Fontanez, Crisanta Ong, Leonard Adelaida Elito.

Cuerpo, however, defended his action, saying the demolition of the residents' houses—which were built a river—were justified because they were in a "danger zone."

"From time to time when there's heavy rain, we have to save them from getting swept away," he said.

In a three-page resolution, the Sandigan said the graft complaint against Cuerpo and company conformed to all requirements under the rules of court.

"Once the information is found to be sufficient in form and substance, the court must issue the order of suspension as a matter of course. There are no ifs and buts about it," it added.

In suspending Cuerpo and the others, the Sandiganbayan cited Section 13 of Republic Act 3019 which "makes it mandatory for the Court to suspend any public officer against whom a valid information charging violation of the law or any offense involving fraud upon government or public funds or property is filed."

**IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S ...** A mannequin dressed up as a witch gives a spooky welcome to residents of a subdivision in Barangay Loyo, Quezon City. (PI 6,229)

# Rosales advises couples: Engage in 'clean fun'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARdinal Rosales yesterday called on couples of the Roxas Compound to engage in "clean fun" as he noted the growing population in the area.

Rosales, who celebrated Mass in a covered court inside the compound, said that while the Church was willing to provide assistance which the government was unable to, it could not do it in its limited funds.

He also cited the Church's policy of encouraging people to be more responsible instead of always relying on charity.

Rosales voiced his approval for the Manila City government's plans to put up a playground in the area as well as in other marginalized communities.

"Thanks to the wisdom of Mayor (Alfredo) Lim, the playground would also serve the older residents because they would accompany their children there. The adults or couples only have one way of (having) fun—inside their rooms, their bed. That is not right," he cautioned.

"The very, the adults will join their children in clean fun," he added.

At the same time, Rosales emphasized to parents the importance of ensuring their child's education, saying that "true parents

NOVALES A14

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# MMDA: Armored vans banned from yellow lanes

By Alinson W. Lopez

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority yesterday reminded that the yellow lanes on EDSA are off-limits to armored vans which carry cash from banks or other establishments.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that drivers of armored vehicles were among the cause for the quasi violation of traffic rules, after citing security as an excuse.

According to Fernando, he has ordered the agency's traffic enforcers to go after armored van drivers who insist on using the yellow lanes which are reserved for bus provincial buses and passenger buses playing Metro Manila.

"Drivers of armored vans should not think that they are above the law just because they carry a large amount of money. They should not think that they are exempted from the law," he said.

The MMDA earlier warned motorists using EDSA that it would strictly enforce the yellow lane policy as part of its Organized Bus Lanes scheme.

Fernando said that armored van owners should just beef up their security or coordinate with enforcement agencies if they feel that they need more protection.

"They should not think that (they are exempted from following) the law just because they are carrying a large amount of cash. That's why they have those licensed armored security escorts—to take care of any threats," he said, adding that his office has received several complaints from motorists about armored van drivers.

Ambulances and other emergency and rescue vehicles, as well as fire trucks and police and military vehicles, are allowed on the yellow lane but only during emergencies.

## Rosales . . .

Front page A-27

house how to sacrifice for their child."

The cardinal also praised Lim for his "imaginations" as he told reporters after the mass, "How do you teach people to teach themselves? (Through) real improvements, the playgrounds, relocations. That's the right way to do it."

Lim, for his part, assured residents in the area that no evictions would be undertaken at the compound.

"If anybody every thinks of evicting you, I will be the first to make a move and oppose it," he said.

"You cannot be evicted here," the mayor stressed, as he revealed his administration's plans to improve the roads, drainage system, and construct more playgrounds in other depressed areas.

## METROBRIEFS

### Cops wound troublemaker at party

A MAN who had just been released by the police following his arrest for carrying a firearm was re-arrested more than an hour later, this time for pointing the gun at a group of teenagers attending a party in Quezon City early morning yesterday. The suspect was identified as Alfredo Medina, a resident of Sable Street in North Olympus, Zabarte Road, Quezon City. He was shot and wounded in the arm when he fired on several policemen who responded to a call for help made by a concerned citizen. Supt. Raymundo Equibal of the Fairview police station said that Medina was first picked up by the police at 12:40 a.m. for carrying a gun. The suspect was allowed to go after he showed his permit for the firearm. "His papers were in order so he was released," the policeman said. But more than an hour later, the police received a call from a concerned citizen about an armed man who was threatening a group of teenagers attending a debut party at the Health Olympus clubhouse. When policemen arrived at the clubhouse, they found Medina who fired upon them, prompting them to fire back. **Nancy C. Carvajal**

### Defective weighing scales seized

WITH Christmas fast approaching, the Mandaluyong City government has cracked down on defective and unauthenticated weighing scales to protect consumers. In a report, the city's business permits and licensing office said it has seized close to 300 weighing scales in public markets as part of its "Operation Timbangan" campaign. "This is one way of protecting our consumers against some vendors who want to take advantage of (them). Consumers should get their money's worth," Mayor Benhur Abalos said. **Rito Alcaraz**

## METRO Citizen's call

0919-8965566

### Thanks, Quezon City officials!

WE WOULD like to commend the Quezon City Department of Public Safety and the Quezon City Police District for taking immediate action on our complaint regarding the use of Gubitosi Highway in front of ISM Services as a bus terminal in the morning (Oct. 6, 2008 issue of Metro section). A big thank you also to Inquirer Metro Columnist Dali for publishing our complaint. You make our nation proud of you. **Ody Batiller, 45, Woodliner, Quezon City**

### Pickpockets regular fixtures on Edsa buses

MGA KAWALDUSS! nagkalat na ngayon sa Edsa ang mga pickpocket. Kung dati-rati ay sa Metro Manila area sila nagkakalat, ngayon pa lang ay nakarating na sila sa Cavite. Hindi na ako nagulat nang mabiktima ang mga kaanak ko ng mga pickpocket. Sapagkat dalawa sa kanila ay nabiktima ng magkaibang pickpocket sa magkaibang araw. Ang unang nabiktima ay ang aking pamangkin na si Jay. Habang siya ay nakasakay sa isang bus sa Edsa, may isang lalaki ang tumabi sa kanya at nagpanggap na natutulog. Nang siya ay bumaba na ng bus, nakita niya na wala na pala ang kanyang cellphone. Ang pangalawang biktima naman ay ang aking kapatid na si Ate Lina. Habang siya ay nakasakay sa isang bus sa Edsa, may isang babae

# Vatican: Stop pressure on Pope over Pius XII

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN on Saturday called on Jewish, Catholic and Jewish to stop piling "pressure" on Pope Benedict XVI over whether he should or should not promote the sainthood of his controversial Nazi-era predecessor Pius XII.

Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958, has been accused by some Jews of turning a blind eye to the Holocaust during World War II, a charge his supporters and the Vatican deny.

Chief Vatican spokesperson Rev. Federico Lombardi issued an unusual statement after an Italian news agency ran an interview with the Rev. Peter Gumpel, the Vatican's chief judge investigating Pius' sainthood cause.

Gumpel, a major proponent of sainthood for Pius, was quoted as saying that Benedict had put the sainthood process for Pius on hold because it would harm relations with Jews.

Last year, the Vatican's canonizing department voted in favor of a decree recognizing Pius' "heroic virtues," a step in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967.

Benedict has so far not approved the decree—which is needed for beatification, the last step before sainthood—opting for what the Vatican has called a period of reflection.

"In this situation, it is not appropriate to exercise pressure on him (the Pope) from one side or the other," Lombardi said.

The Vatican appeared to be at pains to distance itself from the remarks attributed to Gumpel, including one that Benedict would not visit Israel unless a caption of a photograph of Pius in Jerusalem's Yad Vashem museum of the Holocaust was changed.

The caption says that Pius "abstained from signing the Allied declaration condemning the extermination of the Jews" and "maintained his neutral position throughout the war."

The Vatican statement said that while the Catholic Church has made it clear in letters to consider it "a deteriorating factor" in the decision about a Papal trip.

Some say Pius did not do enough to save Jews. The Vatican and his Jewish defenders say he worked behind the scenes to help because direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

Benedict has repeatedly defended Pius, saying he worked "secretly and silently" during World War II to "avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews possible."

As an Dec. 9 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Pius' death, Benedict said he prayed the process which could lead to Pius' beatification "can proceed happily."

Four days before the anniversary, the chief rabbi of Haifa, Israel, Shear Yashuv Cohen, told Benedict during a synod that Jews "cannot forgive and forget" that some major religious leaders at the time did not speak out against the Holocaust.

Cohen, who was the first Jew to address a Vatican synod, urged the cold reception Pius "should not be seen as a model and he should not be beatified." Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult issues in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Many books have been written about it, with many defenders saying the situation would have been worse for Jews if he had spoken out forcefully, prompting recriminations by Hitler.

Pius may be enlisted churches and convents throughout Italy to hide Jews and first Vatican diplomats in Europe also helped give many Jews false passports. Reuters

CATHOLICS dressed in purple pay homage to Peru's most revered religious icon, "The Lord of the Miracles" or "Purple Christ," in a procession through Lima on Dec. 18. REUTERS

# Documents say Iran aids militias from Iraq

WASHINGTON—MORE THAN 80 pages of newly declassified intelligence documents for the first time describe in detail an elaborate network used by Iraqis to gain entry into Iran and train under Iranian supervision. They offer the most comprehensive account to date to support American claims about Iranian efforts to build a proxy force in Iraq. Those claims have become highly politicized, with Bush administration critics charging that accounts of Iranian involvement have been exaggerated.

The jailers' accounts cannot be independently verified. Yet the documents give strikingly similar details about training compounds in Iran, a clandestine network of safe houses in Iran and Iraq they used to reach the camps and intra-Shiite tensions as the camps between the Arab Iraqis and their Persian instructors.

The documents, compiled by the US Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, are a collection of interrogation reports based on accounts of more than two dozen Shiite fighters captured in Iraq in 2007 and 2008. (The documents are available online at ctc.usma.edu/iran3.asp.) The center is a research organization that compiles and analyzes intelligence documents related to al-Qaida, Iraq, Iran and other topics.

The documents portray an Iranian strategy in an Iraqi Shiite as courageous, in part to avoid the risk of Iranians being captured in Iraq. In one of the intelligence reports, a prisoner tells his captors that "Iran does not want to fight a direct war" with American forces in Iraq because Tehran worries that the United States would destroy Iran. AFP

# China allows farmers to transfer land-use rights

BEIJING—CHINESE FARMERS will be allowed to transfer their land-use rights under a new policy to boost agricultural production and rural incomes, state media said on Tuesday, defusing criticism previously announced by Beijing.

China's rural citizens, who number more than 750 million according to a 2006 census, own the product of their land but not the land itself, and are banned from trading their land-use rights under current laws.

"The new measures adopted are seen by economists as a major breakthrough in land reforms initiated by late leader Deng Xiaoping 30 years ago to avoid farmers of opportunities to conduct scale management and non-business operations," Xinhua said.

The plan was agreed upon at a meeting of the ruling Communist Party earlier this month.

"Such transfers of land-use rights must be voluntarily participated in by farmers, with adequate payment and in accordance with the law," Xinhua cited the party's decision as saying.

Under Deng's reforms, the huge communes that were the jewels of Mao Zedong's communism were disbanded and farmers allowed to sell some of their produce on the open market, rather than being forced to sell it all to the state.

With the land itself still collectively owned, the present system has been rife with abuse. Local governments have seized rural plots to sell to factories and property developers, often paying only minimal compensation to farmers.

Thousands of protests against land grabs every year have alarmed Beijing, prompting discussions about how to give farmers greater security to their land rights, if not outright ownership.

Giving farmers more scope to transfer or pool their land into bigger, more modern, agricultural operations would boost productivity and accelerate urbanization, economists say.

Such land transfers have already been spreading, formally and informally, in recent years. Reuters

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# The WORLD

Lira Lorraine B. Dizon

# FBI struggling to handle finance cases

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INvestigation is struggling to find enough agents and resources to investigate criminal wrongdoing tied to the country's economic crisis, according to current and former bureau officials.

The bureau slashed its criminal investigative workforce to respond to national security role after the Sept. 11 attacks, shifting more than 1,800 agents, or nearly one-third of all agents in criminal programs, to terrorism and intelligence duties. Current and former officials say the cutbacks have left the bureau seriously exposed in investigating areas like white-collar crime, which has taken on special importance in recent weeks because of the nation's economic woes.

The pressure on the FBI has recently increased with the disclosure of criminal investigations into some of the largest players in the financial collapse, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The FBI is planning to double the number of agents working financial crimes by reassigning current handled agents amid a crowd of national alarm. But some people inside and out of the Justice Department wonder where the agents will come from and whether they will be enough.

Since 2004, FBI officials have warned that mortgage fraud posed a looming threat, and the bureau has repeatedly asked the Bush administration for more money to replenish the ranks of agents handling counterterrorism investigations, according to records and interviews. But only now, the requests have been denied, with no new agents approved for financial crimes, as policymakers focused on counterterrorism as the chief financing priority.

According to previously undisclosed internal FBI data, the cutbacks have been particularly severe in staffing for investigations into white-collar crimes like mortgage fraud, with a loss of 625 agents, or 16 percent of its 2004 levels.

Overall, the number of criminal cases that the FBI has brought to federal prosecutors—including a wide range of crimes like drug trafficking and violent crimes—dropped 26 percent in the last seven years, going from 11,829 cases to 8,187, Justice Department data showed. AYT

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## *Republicans fear bloodbath in Congress*

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICANS always feared a pounding in this year's congressional elections, but the shutdown of the Wall Street crisis may inflict a bloodbath on President George W. Bush's discredited party.

Still reeling from 2006 midterm polls which saw Democrats marshal to new control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Republicans look set to take further losses in a toxic political climate.

Pessimism stems from the economic crisis took set to help Democrats widen majorities in both chambers, and the party is envisioning years of dominance in Congress and his high hopes of grabbing the White House.

Just over two weeks from election day, Nov. 4, Democratic congressional candidates are also flashing in the current measurements of their presidential standard-bearer Barack Obama, and his pied piper hordes of new voters.

They are banking on big gains in the Senate, where most conservative estimates say four or five seats in the 100-strong chamber could change hands, with several more likely to topple on a really bad night for Republicans.

Current polls suggest that Democrats can expect to add at least 20 seats to their current majority of 56 when all 435 House partisan come up for reelection.

"Clearly the big issue here is the state of the economy," said Prof. Warren Smith, a specialist in congressional politics at the University of Washington in St. Louis.

"The crisis is blamed on Republicans ... we are seeing an across the board shift in the good fortunes of the Democrats."

Though Democrats have been on top for two years and Congress is held in contempt—the approval ratings for a historic low of 15 percent in a recent CBS poll—Republicans, as holders of the White House are carrying the can for the crisis.

The 2008 congressional battlefield was always tilted toward Democrats, as by a quirk of the political schedule, 22 Republican seats are up for reelection in the Senate compared to just 12 held by Democrats.

Fearing a Democratic tide, some Republicans in the 100-seat chamber retired, and only one Democratic seat, that of Sen. Mary Landrieu in Louisiana, is seen as marginally competitive.

Democrats currently enjoy a 51-49 edge in the Senate, with the help of two independents, but it would take a political earthquake for them to hit the magic 60 seats barrier and the power to break Republican filibusters. AFP

**TITANIC SURVIVOR SELLS MEMENTOS**
Millvina Dean, 96, the last living Titanic survivor in an April 11 photo. At a 2-month auction, Dean was strapped to a sofa and lowered into a lifeboat from the deck of the sinking RMS Titanic in recreation of the ship in 1912. Dean received over $90,000 in an auction of items from the liner to raise money to pay her nursing home fees. AP

## After setbacks, new ways of defense sought vs AIDS

CAPE TOWN—ONE YEAR AFter a puzzling setback in the hunt for an AIDS vaccine, researchers say their debacle have forced them to look for entirely new ways of mounting a defense against the disease.

After nearly 30 years, 25 million deaths and billions of dollars spent with no vaccine to show for it, scientists at this year's International AIDS Vaccine Conference said they were hunting to unveil approaches to overcome their failures.

"We are in the middle of quite a profound shift of mindset in the research community," said Alan Bernstein, director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, an alliance of organizations searching new vaccines.

Bernstein said that awaiting setbacks had forced scientists to delve into sophisticated new research to tackle the disease.

Last year scientists were forced to abandon two advanced clinical trials of a vaccine by pharmaceutical company Merck, after it appeared to actually heighten the risk of AIDS infection.

About 30 other clinical trials are underway around the world, but the main standard is a study in Thailand that began in 2003, with results expected next year.

That trial is the biggest ever, with 16,000 people enrolled. Scientists say that whatever the outcome, it will provide valuable information on the psychosis, which could again won't see a vaccine for decades.

HIV mutates at every turn, making it extremely difficult to design a vaccine to attack it. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Pacquiao power stuns sparmate /A28

SPORTS
Editor Rodylen S. Philipdrew Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

# Tigresses overpower Lady Blazers; FEU up

By Jose Navarro

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND Far Eastern University took outstanding stocks to down opposite clubs yesterday as the second conference of the Shakey's V-League Reed off at The Arena in San Juan City.

The rebounding Tigresses, flaunting the first unrivaled three conference crown, knocked their bid for another championship with a 20-13, 20-17, 20-23, 25-16 whipping of College of St. Benilde.

The Lady Tamaraws also turned under of their title aspirations but not after going through the proverbial eye of the needle in an energy-sapping 25-23, 21-25, 19-25, 25-15, 15-13 win-up over First Conference champion Ateneo de Davao U.

Aiza Maizo spruced 15 hits, including 12 kills, on Benilde's side of the floor, while Mary Jean Balse scored 13 hits, 11 of them on attacks that helped bail the Tigresses' killer instinct in the final set.

"This win is an indication that we're in good form," said UST coach Gerard Abiva Azanza, who took over the coaching chores from longtime mentor Angge Abu Manta. "It's a matter of taking ref in back."

The Lady Tamaraws got into the groove only in the third set as Glen Rosario unloaded the bulk of her 11 hits to connect the one-sided attack to another set.

Coming off the huddle before the final set, the Tigresses began pummeling the Lady Blazers score to order control the good.

Irish Mendoza led the Lady Tamaraws with 13 hits, three blocks and an ace as they held off the Lady Falcons in the last two sets.

Rachelle Dungan delivered 11 attacks on top of three blocks and three aces while Shalaia Gonzales bracked FEU's cause with 12 hits, four blocks and a service point in the tournament hosted by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group, Inc.

■ UTSO shot Shalaia Gonzales and her teammates would be driven energetic on a delayed basis and fulfill with a class on The Power Channel on Destiny Cable and Mabuhay Channel on Sky Cable. Visit the homepage at www.mvp-league.ph for updates and results.

SAINTS' Teresa Iglesia (No. 4) Palma seeks to the defense of St. Benilde's Kaiza Rosario yesterday's game at The Arena in San Juan.

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# Long shots steal thunder in Klub Don Juan races

CAPIROSA, CUTIE—LONG SHOTS grabbed the limelight yesterday as fifth placer Holy Ridge and his second brother Indelible Ink captured the top two races of the seventh Klub Don Juan de Manila Racing Festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Fielded by Luzon Stallion, Holy Ridge won the Klub Don Juan de Manila Derby while Indelible Ink, expertly handled by ace jockey Jonathan Hernandez, benefited outstanding favorite Be Twenty Six in rolling the Gumpaquete Stakes.

Holy Ridge nipped Lim Supercaster Tuyo (John Alvin Guce) and Shining Stars (Efren Reyes) to win the PHP600,000 top purse for the 2,000-meter race.

Indelible Ink left last year's Horse of the Year Be Twenty Six struggling in her wake going into the homestretch to complete a big day for owner Hermie Esparron.

The unchallenged winners of the Lakambini Stakes a few weeks ago, Indelible Ink came home some 10 lengths in front of Be Twenty Six, who couldn't summon a blistering pace in the end.

Head Rock (Emmanuel de Leon), Swiss Miss (Val Dilema) and Treasured Ace (John Gordon) checked in third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

The daughter of Best of Luck and Sampaguita clocked 1 minute and 39.8 seconds for the 1900-meter race and delivered P720,000 for Esparron, who also pumps the two favorite Stakes events.

Guided by Noel Ellema, Maritime Power pulled away from underdog Heaven Sent (NE Fernandez) in the final 150 meters to win The 2400m Juvenile Fillies by some four lengths with a time of 1 minute and 27 seconds.

As four lanky Go Army colts by Hernandez, showed the way from start to finish of the Go coupled entry De Filipinos Muscovite Derby(1) and Junior middleweight Marcus McDaniels fell back against the ropes and dropped his hands, persuading the Filipino ring hero to stop the onslaught and ask his opponent if he's OK.

The kind gesture resulted a stinker Pacquiao courtesy after the Filipino icon flawed Diaz to win the vacant 12-round clashing their knee-fight for the WBC lightweight championship.

"Pacquiao's great reasons for his opponent demonstrated once again his human side," said announcer Michael Buffer and boxing writer Ed De La Vega in his report.

Pacquiao overwhelmed the 25-year-old Mexican with his lightning-quick combinations before coupling it with a left hook that jarred the Chino Maidagger from Simi Orbone.

De La Vega said the Saturday afternoon incident left the small group of people who witnessed the closed-door session in a funk. It was the topic of their discussion until the fifty-minute limousine ride after the workout.

Pacquiao plans to leave them squaring both a week, he said, the number of rounds he has fun on eight his time the remaining supreme handicap Freddie Roach at the Wild Card gym.

In his column in the cocktail theatre yesterday, Pacquiao says adjustments his new Guinness technique—gobsmacker.

He said it allows him to gain strength without excessively building muscle mass that could compromise his speed.

As signs of gratitude to his trainer, Pacquiao also said that Roach will stay on in his corner until he eventually retires.

"He is like a father to me, but he never seemed boundaries between being a friend and a coach," Pacquiao swore to Filipinos.

# Swift comeback for pair

## Dumaguete, Muntinlupa clouters avenge first-day defeats

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DUMAGUETE AND MUNTINLUPA got back on their opening-day turnarounds with impressive wins in the Baseball Philippines' second weekend at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Dumaguete cleared limit from 0-9 down to pull the rug from under Santa Rosa champion Batangas with a cleansing 13-9 victory, and moments Muntinlupa worked its first runs in the league by beating Manila, 5-3.

Batangas downed Dumaguete, 6-4, and Manila blasted Muntinlupa, 13-4, in the Community Sports Inc.-organized league took the lid off its fourth tournament this year on Saturday.

Cebu was the other game of the opening triplicate by crushing Forward Taguig, 14-0, and was leading 7-2 in their second meeting yesterday when the match was suspended due to fading light.

The Redlibans, who lost to the Bulls in their debut here for the Series 3 crown, enlisted helmet pitcher Ramon Jude Calzada after Batangas posted what looked like an unbeatable 8-3 lead after four innings.

Didis Calzada fended the Bulls in a tough run on a close decision in the last five innings while the Redlibans' stormy ace was subpar—3-2-5-6-12 in a five-frame span from the fourth.

The six-run explosion in the sixth was highlighted by a two-run homer over the center field fence by Gumpaquete Batangas grabbed the lead for good at 10-9.

"We finally started to only—sometimes wins really when," said Dumaguete pilot-big team manager Lito Pulgo in Filipino.

Muntinlupa, which took over from Series 1 champion Manila, also thrashed strong-to-ailing Jack Manila behind future Bucks pitcher Ramon Alamin, who scattered eight hits.

The Bluestars tied it at 3-3 in the sixth inning and went on for the win. Solano on an RBI triple by catcher Wilfredo Hidalgo.

BATANGAS and Dumaguete relive their red-hot fought Series 3 championship duel (above) by splitting their first two Series 4 encounters over the weekend.

RUGBY YOUNGSTERS Young rugby players compete in Saturday's Australia Juniors Touch Football challenge at the British Island Manila. The mini tournament, organized by the Philippine Rugby Football Union, also featured matches between Forest Corp., schools, clubs and foundations, with proceeds played were towards an Tokay Foundation, Bahay Kubo Foundation, French School, Japanese School and Brent.

# RP rowers bag Asian Beach Games bronze

BALI, INDONESIA—THE MEN'S DRAGON boat team placed third in the 1st Asian Beach Games here to give the Philippines its first medal on Sunday off the Kuta beachfront.

The Philippines crossed the finish line of the 1000-meter event in 4:41.91, settling for the bronze medal behind Indonesia 14:29.28 and Vietnam (4:34.25), which was running third until the halfway mark.

The Filipino clocked 4:41.97 in the preliminaries to reach the repechage round, where they posted 4:42.14 to gain the finals.

Rowers Hero Dan Bonifacio, Christopher Bergonia would only place fourth in preseason rankings.

Gold contenders in the 2006 Manila Southeast Asian Games, the Filipino paddlers led early at the last 400 meters when the Indonesians grabbed the lead by good.

"It's OK, we did our expect to win this race," said RP coach Nicasio Regino, whose team also competed in badminton and Malaysia early this year. "We're not that good in long distances.

Indonesian's Gusti Ngurah Ayu Widyanthini Ayu Ismi Nguyen Tik Ani's of Vietnam and Muhammad Khairul Imtiaz of Brunei to the gold to provide the medal.

# Orcollo seeking revenge

FEELING SUPER FIT THESE TIMES, Dennis Orcollo has vowed to make a strong comeback during the Grand Finals of "Clean Living" billiards 9-Ball Tournament to be held on 4th Tuesday at Jubilee's Jacksonville.

The 26-year-old Orcollo made the promise following an unexpected third-place finish with Francisco "Django" Bustamante at the second 2006 Pinoy Pride and World Cup of Pool in Bacolod City. Bustamante had been outscored and lost his behind China's 2007 champion pair of Fu Jianbo and Li Hewei.

But the best both top-seeded countrymen could do was to share third place in the tournament won by the United States, which finished on the solid performance of Rodney Morris and US Open champion Shane Van Boening.

The leading player of Bagay Pennsylvania, Orcollo is bent on winning in January and, at the same time, protect his hold of the No. 1 world ranking.

"Honestly, I'm very disappointed that Django and Shane [Van Boening] and I were not able to fulfill our ambition of winning the World Cup of Pool and Fu Jianong myself for it," said Orcollo in Filipino during a post-game interview.

The Filipino world ranked seven pair proved to win the Guinness Grand Finals," said the continent performer from Bangsa province.

Only the top 16 players in the Gobernor Tour Guide of Ilocos will qualify for the Grand Finals, including a cold-cut money from the host country.

Orcollo is ranked seventh in the Order of Merit with a total of 140 points to be earned after a victory to the penultimate stop of the tilting Tour in Guangzhou, China, and a runner-up finish in the Singapore stop.

In the 2006 Gobernor Tour, Chinese-Taipei star admits are leading the derby with three players occupying the top three positions, namely, defending champion Chang Jung-lin (260 points), Ting Chang-shun (190), and Tzung Hang-leung (180).

The best-rated Filipino bet is Alex "The Gent" Pagulayan, who is fourth with 160 points. Another Filipino, Joven Bustamante, is fifth with 140, while former Pilipili World Pool winner Nic Chia-Ching, also from Taiwan, is tenth with 110.

After Orcollo comes fourth Ronnie Ryan Sorano race at eighth with 130; the Philippines' dominant Gideon Antolin (125); and Malaysia's Ibrahim Ibn Ahok (96, 110). The solid-cast entry is Ricky Yang Jhan-feed Indonesia.

"I gathered that Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes would be skipping the Third UK Open 9-Ball Championship which gets spring today in Danaguenie, Virginia, due to health reasons.

At 54, Reyes has already shown signs of slowing down, admitting that he is slowly beginning to feel his age. Still, Reyes does not want to be counted out.

"I feel that I am good for some more years. After my medical check-up, I will be playing again," he said.

Reyes was the US Open in 1994 and, at age 43, captured the World Pool Masters 1999.

Former Olympic shooter and twenty-time national shooting titlist Mariano Tan Ong made another adventure to exercise.

A son, Mathaniel "Tat" Padilla, has followed his father's footsteps by also winning several national shooting championships and earning berths to many PF delegations to international events like the Olympics, Asian Games and Southeast Asian Games.

Way back in his late 1960s, The made his mark by topping an international event in Manila City when he was only 17 years old.

After making his birthday to another reinvented friend, Philippine executive Fidy Gayoso, who will celebrate on Oct. 24, the same day that I will mark mine. And to Nicky, who celebrated her 60th some day yesterday, a belated birthday wish from your friends and members of the family. We love you!

## SPORTSWATCH

### RP golfers finish in joint 28th

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—RUFINO BAYSON carded a birdie on the 18th for a one-over-par 74 while Gerbi Ayala carded a 75 as the Philippines ended up tested 28th at the close of the third Amateur Golf Team championship here by Scotland yesterday.

Both Bayson and Ayala 148 total for the day at the par-72 Royal Adelaide layout, the Filipinos moved up tied with Austria (145) and Ireland's Hall with identical 300-1986.

Jeremy Sabastian, the third Filipino bet, did not card with an 85.

Scotland posted a nine-stroke triumph over the United States despite a 147 finish for a 582-total. The defending champ edged to a 582 for second at 588 while Sweden took third place with a 594 after a 313.

### PCAP derby finish untold

THE SEVENTH AND FINAL LEG OF THE DERBY of the Pinoy Contract Association of the Philippines (PCAP) series unfolds today at the Manila Coliseum with 13 fights on tap.

At last Sunday's 65 juggle with his entry Jane Pharmacy, Jaime Pacquiao of Sampaguita at the Year total with 22 points followed by John Cagbigan (LEAP Fitness, 20-5) and Paul Dominguez (Mondale Eagle, 18).

Meanwhile, the second 11-04 Global Gig Event E-Dog Derby, hosted by WFC Sports and Amusement Corp., kicks off tomorrow.

### Cyberfriends 4-stag tilt today

NO LESS THAN FOUR-OF-A-SPECIE UP for a Cyberfriends 4-Stag Derby today at the San Juan Coliseum.

Cordero-based newspaper are among the entries, according to SJC all-manager's Fredrick Perez and Butchey Otero.

Cyberfriends president Rebel Dimension among the entries in the derby that offers P500,000 in guaranteed prizes are Dimension Ruiz, Tito Mangubat, El Asero, Old Ria Mara, WCL, Cil Duarty, Janet Rice Aragon, Yesa Cockpit and Mayah Alvarez.

# Catiil, Torres dominate RP Int'l Duathlon at Clark

NATIONAL DUATHLETE NEIL CATIIL emerged the new national champion while Monica Torres proved she is still the country's top lady racer yesterday at the Philippine International Duathlon Festival race at the Clark Economic Zone.

Catiil, the country's bet in the Ruh Asian Beach, beat August Benedicto in the 10K run-40K bike-10K run event with a time of one hour, 53 minutes and 29 seconds.

Benedicto, a double leg winner in the year's Island Duathlon series, clocked in a full minute behind to be satisfied to keep up with the 22-year-old Cagayan de Oro native in the finishing.

Ruiced Odessa, also a national team member, finished third in 1:59:28.

Torres led from start to finish and timed 2:12:14. She posted a best time of 29:57 in the 10K run leg that gave her a big lead over Lea Odine Lough.

Lough, also Bali-bound, timed 2:19:08 and Jill Bonnet completed the Elite Dyo rookies placing third in 2:33:39.

"I didn't expect to win this race since this is just part of my cross training for the Bali Games," said Catiil. "But I knew I could perform well because I have been training since April in Subic with the other national athletes under Alex Imbaco coach Ebdel Pichael."

Lone foreign participant Ahmed was Heath of Belgium, who won the Asian Duathlon in Singapore last June, finished sixth overall in 2:09:06.

Cash Pedergast (2:15:24) and Raquel Del Rosario topped the under-23 race.

Josah Serano (1:05:11) and Rio Mangubang (1:22:27) ruled the junior male and female sprint race while Ezekiel Abella (1:13:27) and Mavis Gayo Cajucom (1:31:42) topped the adult race.

Bernabe S. Acerio

# Red Sox force Game 7

## Varitek shines as Boston derails Tampa Bay

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA—THE BOSTON Red Sox beat Tampa Bay 4-2 on Saturday to force a deciding seventh game for the American League championship and a spot in the World Series.

The Rays led the series, 3-1, and were 7-0 ahead in the seventh inning of Game Five before the Red Sox rallied to win, 8-7.

Boston catcher Jason Varitek homered in the sixth inning to break a 2-2 tie and the Red Sox added another run in the inning on a single by David Ortiz after a Tampa Bay error.

"The important thing is that we found a way to win this game," Varitek told reporters.

Kevin Youkilis also homered for the Red Sox and there is another run with a ground ball.

"It's an incredible feeling right now," he said.

Tampa Bay's only true curse on solo homers by BJ Upton in the first inning and in was fourth to be fifth.

The Rays, who scored 37 runs in the previous four games against Boston, were held to four hits by Boston starter Josh Beckett and three relief pitchers.

Beckett had given up eight runs in the Rays in Game Two last Saturday.

Matt Garza will start for the Rays on Tuesday against Jon Lester of Boston. Garza and the Rays beat Lester 9-1 on Monday.

This is the second year in a row Boston has come back from a three-one deficit in the American League championship series. Boston beat Cleveland, 4-3, last year and then won the World Series against Colorado.

Reuters

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HOPKINS

## Hopkins decisions Pavlik

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—former world champion Bernard Hopkins stopped undefeated champ Kelly Pavlik with a unanimous decision in their 12-round, middle fight on Saturday.

There were no knockdowns but the 43-year-old Hopkins defied his age by battering the down, supposedly stronger Pavlik to inflict his first defeat as a professional.

"Styles make fights," Hopkins said.

"He's a great fighter, but I knew my style and quickness was uncomfortable and was going to give him problems. I wanted him to lead, so I could do what I have to do, counterpunch. He was very heavy-handed. I could feel his power, but I never got hurt."

Reuters

HAMILTON

## Hamilton tops Chinese GP, nears F1 title

SHANGHAI, China—Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday to extend his Formula One drivers' championship lead to seven points.

Hamilton won by 4.6 seconds from his title rival Felipe Massa of Ferrari to increase the lead of his first title with only one race remaining in Brazil.

Massa needed quite second title in the race, comfortably passing teammate Kimi Raikkonen. Their second and third places, combined with the retirement of McLaren's Heikki Kovalainen, left Hamilton the considered champion ending by 11 points. AP


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"At Kia, we give our customers the peace of mind and confidence they deserve to enjoy the use of their Kia vehicles by ensuring the availability of genuine parts as well as having accessible and professional servicing network on hand," explains Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC) Chief Operating Officer, Felix J. Mablog Jr. Being the sole manufacturer and distributor of Kia vehicles in the Philippines, Mablog says that CAC's commitment to uphold the quality of the Kia brand is one of its primary responsibilities towards its customers. With genuine Kia parts and quality Kia service, each Kia customer can rely to receive genuine Kia Care.

Kia and CAC are encouraging its customers to buy and use only Kia genuine parts in their cars. By using original Kia parts, quality is assured because each authentic Kia part is manufactured to high specifications in order to guarantee top notch quality, maximum longevity and superior performance. Mablog says, "Genuine Kia Parts won't break or wear prematurely and this means less downtime, less expense and more time to enjoy your Kia on the road."

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# SPORTS

## Japan tossers sweep Chinese, top Asian tilt

By Cedrif P. Tupas

JAPAN SWEEPS BEIJING'S TITLE WITH a 27-25, 25-17, 25-19 victory over China Saturday night in the finals of the 7th Asian Youth Girls' Volleyball Championship at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

The Japanese hurled an expected tight battle into a rout as skipper Shiori Murata, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, rose to the occasion with a couple of kills that snapped up the first set.

The straight-sets victory avenged the Japanese' five-set defeat to the Chinese in the event's classification stage.

"The quick plays and good floor defense were a tie up," said Japan coach Yoshiyo Ogawa.

The Chinese blew a 24-21 lead in the first set and never really offered much of a fight as Japan weathered the counterattack best attacker, Yang Jie, to just 12 kills.

Japan got 14 kills from Wataka Mochiya, while Saori Kaneko and Murata contributed 23 markers.

Thailand won third place, following a 25-9, 25-22, 25-20 win over host playcountry Republic of Korea.

Japan, China and Thailand clinched spots in the 2009 World Youth Girls Volleyball Championships in Mexico.

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# BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

# Gov't eyes ₱45-B equity infusion into PDIC

## Need to assure depositor protection amid global crisis

By Dona C. Dundas

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INFUSE P45 BILLION IN FRESH equity into state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. using a similar scheme being worked out to recapitalize the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The move is expected to boost local banking regulation and depositor protection given the global financial meltdown.

In an interview at the sidelines of his meeting with top BSP officials last week, PDIC president Jose Magadia said the cash infusion would beef up the country's deposit insurance fund, a source of insurance premiums, to P100 billion from P55 billion.

Upon the suggestion of presidential economic adviser and Mindanao Development Authority (MEDA) co-vice chairman Jose Ibazeta, other additional funds for PDIC, the central

SEE P-2, COL. 1

## Credit squeeze not likely in RP

THE UNPRECEDENTED CREDIT SQUEEZE now dogging worldwide financial markets is not likely to spread to the Philippine banking system, European financial giant Deutsche Bank said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier

SEE P-2, COL. 2

**Edgy trading week seen**

STOCK PRICES WILL STILL BE held hostage by how foreign markets fare this week as the US moves deeper into its third quarter earnings season.

All Capital Securities said in a weekly report to clients, but the Philippine market fared better than its neighbors as it lost just 0.58 percent last week to 2,598.28.

It said one thing to watch out for would be the outcome of a meeting between leaders from the United States and European Union this week to address the looming global recession. Discussions are centering the financial system will also be on the agenda.

(BMP) P2

**IN THIS ISSUE**

■ **$200-M WB loan** to combat food crisis /B3

■ **GSIS tells critics:** Evaluate investments at year's end /B4

■ **JP Morgan expects** RP to weather external shocks /B8

■ **Philex shops around** for acquisition targets /B12

PLDT smeNation Count on me, partner

Page 01

# Helping Hands

## Rural Banks and SME Nation: Building a brighter future for entrepreneurs

Rural Banks, the fastest-growing rural bank in the province of Quezon with already 24 branches under its wing. Savi-ing even the smallest savers, QLRB wanted to have the most cutting-edge solution to manage its growing enterprise.

Richard Emera, QLRB's IT Director says, "Because we needed a way to connect and exchange vital information between our branches so our branches, we explored different means to interconnect the data in our branches."

Having tested all core offerings available technology, QLRB placed its trust on PLDT SMART. "Without the availability of DSL service, we will not be able to extend special services like the ATM facility to our rural clients. Hence, they will be limited, restricted and confined to the few services available to a particular area," he said. With SMART's, QLRB has opened a lot of useful doors for other important business considerations, dramatically improving their operations.

Today, there's no stopping QLRB's continuous expansion plans. Mr. Emera declares, "we looked for the communication service that would match our needs and PLDT SME Native just a few weeks from its solution was an answer to our calling."

Solid foundation: Fast-growing Rural Bank has branches scattered everywhere in growing form

With 13 branches and a field officer, QLRB finds the Internet more adaptive to and responsive to the needs of its newly acquired clients through OPVPN. According to Mr. Emera's favorite Lyrics, "No, since PLDT through PLDT SME Native not only because it is the largest network in the Philippines, but because of their well-trained technicians, reliability of connection and good customer support."

A valuable community institution, QLRB Bank continues to refine innovation into its services, and now they're looking into more technological advancements such as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). With investments available through the years Outstanding Cooperative Bank in the Philippines 1995-2007, Number One Cooperative Bank in Financial Performance 2004-2006, etc.), QLRB has

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 02)

partnership with PLDT SME Native may just bring in a few more players and factors to its ranks.

The Rural Bank of Pavac started with an authorized capital of ₱500 thousand. Today, that has ramped to ₱150 million, managing 9 branches in Pampanga.

Beyond their banking services, it also serves as the payment center of SSS and Philhealth and an accredited subagent of Western Union. The Rural Bank of Pavac saw the continuing need to improve operational efficiencies. PLDT SMART's, its next step into the digital arena, has "made everything faster and better with services that have consistent downtime", according to manager-in-center Israel David.

"We used to make reports manually which usually took an overnight to consolidate. Now with the help of the network, we are receiving the required reports real-time," he adds. Now with quicker transactions, The Rural Bank of Pavac has also set its eyes on the PLDT SME Native's 3G high speed solution to make their presence known on the web.

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# Gov't eyes P45-B equity ...

From page B1

banks as regulator of the banking system.

"It's really part of defensive financial strengthening. We'll have authority to access some money if needed. We're in a stable position as we don't have to raise the funds immediately," Singvalen said.

The P45-billion cash infusion is among the key reform measures sought by PDIC men that Congress is keen on amending its charter to pave the way for the building of deposit insurance coverage to P500,000 a depositor.

Based on discussions with legislators, Singvalen said it was possible that the PDIC charter amendments would be passed within the year. He said congressmen would like to prioritize this piece of legislation to shield the country from the recent financial shakeout in his the United States and Europe since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

"It's because of the urgency of shoring up our safety net [deposit insurance]. This is part of confidence-building—that people know that we can access up to P500 billion and government can lend us up to P500 billion," Singvalen said. "It's a defensive, preemptive measure. If you look at other countries, some even goes [much] more into the..."

The PDIC chief's brother, Speaker Domocao Singvalen, and Manila Rep. Irene Lopez have already filed a bill in the Lower House seeking amendments to the PDIC charter. A counterpart bill has been filed in the Senate by Sen. Francis Escudero.

At the proposed P500,000 level of insured deposits, 97.2 percent of all deposit accounts in the banking system will be fully covered by insurance, compared to 93.3 percent at present, based on the PDIC's estimate.

The 97.2 percent (insurance coverage) that the system now can provide immediately all the small depositors," Singvalen said.

The scheme considered for PDIC's bailout-raising, similar to a framework developed to raise P40 billion in additional capital for the SSS will allow the deposit insurer to get new money while the exit to the government will be staggered over a long, seven-period.

Based on such concept, the government through the Department of Budget and Management will sign the MYSA to appropriate from its budget a certain amount each year, for instance for the next 14-15 years. The government will set up a special purpose fund (SPV) that will float bonds backed by the state's credit year with no investments.

# Krugman's Philippine prescriptions

*CinVito F. Barbito*

HOW PEOPLE INCREASE KNOW that the latest Nobel Prize winner in Economics announced last week, Paul Krugman, actually wrote a book on the Philippines. That's not what won him the Nobel Prize, of course, but the work should be more interesting to Filipinos than his awarded writings on international trade and economic geography.

It was the Nobel professor Dr. Gavriilos Bulusingas Jr. who, back in early 1991 as the country was preparing for a new presidential election, invited Krugman—then already a young superstar economist—as take a closer look at our economy. He led a team of Cinco other UP-based economists, including Virgilio Gil de Rivera, now of the US Federal Reserve Bank, Susan Collins of Harvard University and James Aito of the University of Colorado, in examining the challenges that confronting the Philippine economy. As deputy to Bulusingas then, I had discussions with Krugman and his team both in Manila and in New York as they developed their analysis that became the book "Transforming the Philippine Economy," published by Ateneo with UNDP support.

### Then and now

There were certain parallels between the Philippine economy then and now. When Krugman came at a time when the economy was in the midst of a mild recession, battered by a succession of man-made shocks (i.e. repeated coup attempts against the Aquino administration) and natural disasters (earthquakes and the Mt. Pinatubo eruption). Even without those shocks, however, the underlying trust line approaching a crisis. Krugman noted. He wrote: "The essential structure of the Philippine economy is still Latin American rather than Asian: a highly inefficient manufacturing sector (whose productivity actually declined in the 1980s) that was habitual high protective walls and inconsistently capital-intensive technologies." He further observed, "The rapidly growing labor force is abundant and unemployment is high, but real wages remain unattractive and marginal service sector employment."

The latter sounds mighty familiar. However even here, exactly the same can still be said about our domestic labor and employment situation. Recent statistics show that the bulk of our new job generation is in agriculture, construction, private household employment, transport, and trade (translation: people are mostly getting jobs as part-time farmers, construction laborers, domestic helpers, tricycle and jeepney drivers, and vendors). And yet in those 10 years, millions of Filipino workers had since quite overseas to seek their fortunes, in the process

## Credit squeeze

From page B1

high commodity prices.

In a recent report, dated Dec. 7, Deutsche Bank shared the view that the Philippine financial system seemed a "picture of calm amidst the global storm."

It noted that the country's biggest bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., had recently issued P5.5 billion of subordinated notes qualifying as tier 2 or supplementary capital at an interest rate of 7.75 percent, a mere 22 basis point spread over the equivalent government debt instrument.

It also cited flutes in the Unibank Inc., which recently raised P5 billion worth of hybrid notes qualifying as tier 1 or core capital at 8.5 percent.

"In fact, over the last five months alone, local banks have raised P32 billion worth of paper at quite thin spreads over the local risk-free rate. This is happening at a time when the likes of triple A-rated GE [General Electric] in the US can only get funding at 10 percent in US dollar," the company said.

"It is important to note, in our view, that these funds were raised not to shore up damaged balance sheets. They were instead used to either fund maturing obligations (or much lower cost funds) or else replaced cost to fund future growth," it argued.

The German bank noted that the local banking sector was growing, its loan book at the latest pace since the 1997 Asian currency crisis. Based on the latest Bangko Sentral data, lending by Philippine commercial banks net of placements with the central bank grew at a faster pace of 21.3 percent year on year in August from 18.5 percent in July and 16.7 percent in June, the strongest growth crunch in the months world.

In 2007, loan growth was about 6 percent, already an improvement from the contraction seen from 1999 to 2000, but still less than 50 percent, the bank pointed out, which means that for every P1 generated as deposit, less than 60 cents were lent out.

"The banking sector loans are still less than 30 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) compared to nearly 60 percent in 1997," Deutsche Bank said. "There is no evidence of overheating [overdemanding] in the system."

At the same time, the non-performing loan ratio of 13.98 percent is a ratio of total loans was the lowest level seen since the Asian crisis.

Deutsche Bank said a case could also be made that Philippine banks—particularly Bank of the Philippine Islands—could be considered a "defensive" stock worth holding on despite an uncertain environment. *Boris G. Nemlan*

# $200-M WB loan to combat food crisis

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has approved a $200-million loan to be tapped by the national government from the World Bank to help shield the poor from the adverse effects of high food prices.

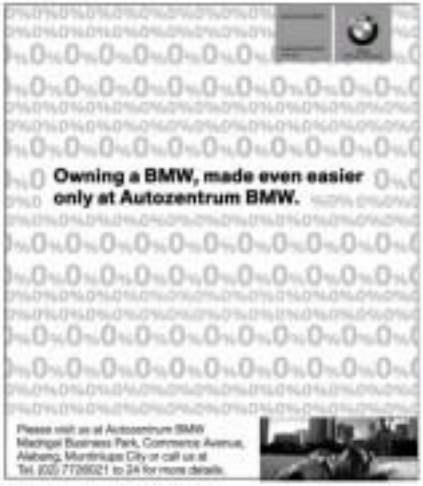
"This is to finance the government's food crisis response," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters in a briefing Friday night. "It's a new loan (BSP) received by the World Bank to help member countries that have been affected by the sub-stantial increase in food prices."

He said the loan, which will carry a 25-year term with a grace of 5 years, was part of the World Bank group's 'global food crisis response program.'

"It aims to support the government particularly in funding programs that offer safety nets and social protection for the vulnerable sector," Tetangco said.

The loan is also expected to support the government's short-term conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme...as well as expanded version of previous social welfare/related loans.

The World Bank-led foreign donor community, during a special Philippine Development Forum held a few months ago, was lauded the government's efforts to expand its direct cash subsidies for the poor while phasing out "less efficient programs" such as rice subsidies.



# GSIS tells critics: Evaluate investments at year's end

By Dinden L. Lunas

THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) defended the state pension fund's decision to invest in foreign markets amid a worldwide financial meltdown, saying that the agency would have performed a lot worse had it not diversified overseas.

At the same time, GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia lashed out at his critics who he said were "hyperventilating" and recommending his investment strategies.

"Name me even a single fund manager anywhere who is not losing money at this point," he said in a telephone interview with the Inquirer on Friday. "[My] investments stayed above water because of diversification."

Garcia was responding to queries about the GSIS' investment strategies regarding its P600-million global investment program, which has come under intense scrutiny in the wake of the financial crisis.

GSIS insiders said that the program earned for it (1) 4 billion or about 5 percent since it started in April of this year, although the bulk of the gains were reported due to the sharp decline in the value of the peso against the dollar.

A closer examination of GSIS investments showed sharp declines in their individual values over the last six months.

During the interview, Garcia stressed that the fund should be evaluated based on how much income it could show at the end of the year instead of assessing its investments "on a day to day basis."

"We make reports quarterly, and any losses should be reported at the end of the year," he said, explaining that any dip in the value of the fund's holdings would only be paper losses until the investments were actually sold.

Garcia also pointed out that "all investments in the whole world are down 40 percent."

"This month is not even over yet," he added, noting that it was necessary to remember that the GSIS was losing money.

While conceding that GSIS' stock investments might be going through a rough patch, he pointed out that the pension fund also has sizable investments in both foreign and local bonds—most of which were performing well due to the markets' general preference for less risky securities.

"The whole reason for diversification is to manage risk and to balance it out," he said. "You cannot get the best (from) all your investments all the time."

"Our bonds are doing fine," the GSIS chief added. "They're making money."

In a report it published two weeks ago, the GSIS said that it had acquired 123 stocks under the GIP.

A survey of the performance of GSIS stocks showed that the prices of at least 82 stocks increased in value from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2008—the cutoff date for the purposes of the published report—and only 15 stocks registered gains.

During this period, at least eight stocks lost more than half their value, with UK-based Insider Garden Plc performing the worst, showing a 77-percent drop in its stock value. Eleven other stocks on the GIP portfolio lost between 30 and 50 percent during this period, and at least two stocks showed double-digit gains.

GSIS' foreign assets are managed by BNY Investment Management and Credit Agricole Asset Management.

Garcia says 'bonds are doing fine'

4.7% DECLINE

# Coco exports down in July

By Arvy N. Baroa

EXPORTS OF PHILIPPINE coconut products dropped slightly by 4.7 percent in July this year to 136,070 metric tons in copra terms from the year-ago level of 143,000 MT, government data showed.

According to the Philippine Coconut Authority, exports in July alone were estimated to be worth $149.945 million, a sharp loop from the $95.301 million posted in the same month last year due to higher selling prices.

The July volume brought exports of coco products in the first seven months to 1.07 million MT, a 16-percent increase from year-ago level of 958,322 MT.

The volume represents 53 percent of the industry's target exports for 2008 of 1.91 million MT.

Meanwhile, export receipts for the period nearly doubled to $972 million from last year's $511 million.

Of the major exports in July coconut oil and oleochemicals scaled back to 99,000 MT from 99,000 MT of coconut and copra meal reported double-digit growth.

Coconut oil shipments during the month declined 3.6 percent to 85,151 MT, which consisted of 40,065 MT crude coconut oil, 28,046 MT refine (refined, bleached) oil, and 1,080 MT RBD oil. Similarly, shipments of oleochemicals plunged 59.3 percent to 6,448 MT as copra from 20,954 MT.

Europe was the top destination for coconut oil, accounting for 34,525 MT of the purchases, followed by the United States with an uptake of 23,196 MT and Japan with 8,450 MT.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# JP Morgan expects RP to weather external shocks

## Enough cushion against financial crisis

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES HAS "SIGNIFICANT" exposure to an emerging global recession but has built up internal buffers to cushion against external shocks, investment banking giant JP Morgan said.

In its latest emerging market research dated Oct. 16, JP Morgan held the view that "local monetary and fiscal policymakers were well-positioned to act, if needed, to help pick up domestic output given the uncertainties in the global economy."

JP Morgan estimated that every percentage point drop in US growth would shave 0.4-0.5 percentage point from the growth in the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP), or the sum of all goods and services produced by the local economy in a given period.

Remittances are also directly exposed since more than 46 percent of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are based in the United States, the research said.

But JP Morgan noted that there had been minimal bond financing by Philippine corporations. It added that real estate and stock market prices have previously moved up but still lagged many of their regional peers, thus diminishing concerns that they were nearing "bubble" type levels.

"Bank foreign funding both as a percent of GDP and as a share of total bank liabilities is manageable and domestic licenses had been given out prudently, so there has been no excessive activity there," it said.

And as inflation has peaked and runs on cash is slow down as single-digit levels by February or March next year, JP Morgan said a return to the 2.5-3.0 percent range would be possible by the middle of 2010.

"Have itself, which alone makes up 9.3% percent of the CPI (consumer price index) basket, has seen its price start falling in August and forecasts point to favorable weather through early 2009," the research said.

What a series of interest rate increases unnecessarily later this year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas paused on its monetary-tightening campaign now that price pressures were softening and inflation expectations slowing.

"Fiscal policy is also well positioned. The postponement of the business's budget target to 2010 was already a compromise, done to avoid a recession even global growth. And if needed, additional fiscal stimulus measures could be deployed," JP Morgan said.

The International Monetary Fund defines global recession as a slowdown in global growth to 3 percent or less. In its latest world economic outlook forecast, the IMF has projected such a major downturn by next year.

Meanwhile, JP Morgan said the Philippines' balance of payments (BOP) would be under strain but still looked resilient as receipts from overseas Filipinos, workers as well as the fast-growing business process outsourcing (BPO) sector.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between this local economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction that gives rise to outflows like a payment of foreign investments, importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP, while any that gives rise to inflows like borrowing, exporting or overseas remittances is a surplus item.

"GDP continues to be consumer is grow and importantly, should be more resilient as the quality of workers deployed has improved, as reflected in the rise in their average incomes," the paper said.

"Tourism receipts are rising as we head toward the peak season in the fourth quarter," it added.

Inflows from BPO operations, largely relocating from India and China, are also diversifying from just call centers to areas, such as software development, medical and legal transcriptions and are now bringing in $3-$4 billion a year, the research noted.

Overall, there is low risk to developed markets to a global recession, BPO activities could actually rise," JP Morgan said.

It said the country's gross international reserves were expected to end the year higher at $37 billion, despite the decline in the current account surplus.

"Lastly, in terms of an external liquidity buffer, recall that the Philippines has about $33 billion in foreign currency deposit units in the banking system which can be used for the 10 dollar needs of local [firms]," it said.

From page B1

repatriation of new tax [fund] cases and of criminal and civil cases filed were actually lower than in earlier years.

In my view-priced personal autographed copy of the book that came out of their work, Ibes Bengzon penned: "Four Cleb—May the good guys always win!" He clearly knows, even then, what has been fundamentally wrong with the Philippine economy.

(Comments welcome at chrisbn@inquirer.edu)

# RP rice stocks surged 70% to 1.92M tons as of Sept. 1

By Amy R. Remo

AMID EARLIER FEARS OF A frightening rice supply, the Philippines managed to keep an adequate national stockpile estimated at 1.92 million metric tons as of Sept. 1, or enough to last 58 days.

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, the Sept. 1 level was higher by 69.9 percent compared to its year-ago level of 1.13 million MT and by 2.1 percent from the previous month's 1.9 million MT.

During the period, the National Food Authority managed to keep supply of the staple at a comfortable level of 26 days as it held the bulk of the national rice buffer stock at 872,300 MT.

Usually, stocks held by households comprise the biggest portion of the country's rice stockpile.

The Sept. 1 NFA rice stocks—96 percent of which are imported—also flexed a 180-percent increase from the year-ago level of 309,900 MT.

This was also 2.1 percent higher compared with the previous month's 854,800 MT.

Even as the NFA began releasing huge volumes of the staple to the local market to stem price spikes, the food agency managed to keep its rice stockpiles stable, particularly during the traditional lean period from July to September.

Having this period, the government implemented a selective rationing strategy, allowing the NFA to infuse in the market as much as 7 million 50-kilo bags, equivalent to 350,000 MT of rice, every month.

The government sells subsidized rice at P18.25 a kilo and commercial varieties of the grain at P25 and P35 a kilo.

Despite a record-high volume distribution rate, the NFA managed to keep a 26-day rice stock as of July 1 and a 27-day supply as of Aug. 1. As per policy, the food agency is required (added) to maintain a 15-day rice stockpile at any given time and a 30-day buffer stock during the traditional lean months.

Meanwhile, household stocks rose 16.4 percent to 690,700 MT from 593,500 MT a year ago. The Sept. 1 household volume was slightly lower by 1.3 percent compared with the previous month's 699,600 MT.

Stocks in commercial warehouses reached 365,200 MT as of Sept. 1, a 54-percent increase from last year's 232,000 MT and a 2.6-percent increase from the previous month's 347,800 MT.

Given current stockpiles, supervised import arrivals and harvests in the second half of the year, the NFA earlier said it expected to end the year with at least a million MT of rice inventory.

Depending on how the main planting harvests would turn out, the NFA had said the country's total rice supply for the year could be enough to cover for the rice requirements in the first quarter of 2009.

## No Free Lunch

revenue/GDP ratio to nearly 20 percent. But the figure slid down again continuously after he left, and the downslide was only arrested with the imposition of the controversial PDAF in 2003. But even this didn't last; government itself projects the revenue/GDP ratio to fall again in 2009. Bengzon saw that the obvious way to change this was to identify and penalize tax evaders—and yet lamented that in 1969, the number of investigations of new tax fraud cases and of criminal and civil cases filed were actually lower than in earlier years.

In my view-priced personal autographed copy of the book that came out of their work, Ibes Bengzon penned: "Four Cleb—May the good guys always win!" He clearly knows, even then, what has been fundamentally wrong with the Philippine economy.

(Comments welcome at chrisbn@inquirer.edu)

# Home guarantee agency seeks P1-B infusion a year

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE-OWNED HOME GUARANTEE CORP. has sought equity infusion of at least P1 billion a year from the national government as it expand its capacity to guarantee more housing loans.

HGC is hoping to get P1.2 billion from the national government in 2009 and another P1 billion in 2010 to help accommodate its short-term programs and expenditure requirements that it has already identified.

HGC president Ricardo Bongolan said the company's authorized capitalization was initially P50 billion, but that its paid-up capital from the national government has so far reached only P11 billion.

Aside from the request to get P1.2 billion and P1 billion in additional capitalization for the next two years, Bongolan said the company would also make a formal request to get at least P1 billion a year from 2011 and onward.

HGC, established through Republic Act 8763, provides guarantee on residential and low-cost housing loans extended to credit applicants by financial institutions like Pag-IBIG.

The objective of HGC is to support the national government's goal of providing shelter to more Filipinos by encouraging private home owners to mobilize through a credit guarantee.

But Bongolan said that its capacity to provide guarantees was rather limited. "Equity infusion [from the national government] will help support our operations and will be used to serve general purposes. We want to expand our guarantees and refinancing capacity," Bongolan said.

Earlier, Bongolan said HGC was planning to borrow P5 billion from the commercial market next year by selling long-term bonds. Proceeds will be used to expand its capacity to issue more loans.

But should the government grant HGC's request of annual capital infusion of at least P1 billion, Bongolan said, the company might not need to borrow as much.

HGC expects to increase its guarantee exposure to as much as P83.3 billion worth of housing loans next year, 15 percent higher than the P72 billion recorded as of end-2007. He said the projected increase is attributed to steadily rising demand for housing.

To accommodate the rising demand for housing and to better fulfill its mandate, Bongolan said, HGC should be able to increase its financial muscle through its investment activities and with the help from the national government.

But Bongolan earlier said that HGC's charter limited it to invest only in government securities. He said HGC's charter should be amended so that it can invest in more sophisticated and higher-yielding instruments.

He said HGC was urging Congress to file a bill amending the company's charter and make the legislative measures a priority in 2009.

Another enshrined provision in HGC's charter, Bongolan said, is the one that prohibits it from guaranteeing housing loans besides "socialized" and "low-cost." But he said the term "socialized housing" is defined in the HGC charter as one that costs only P450,000 and below. Nowadays, he said, it is difficult to find developers offering a house for P450,000 or less. The real estate industry considers socialized housing as one that costs P600,000, he said.

From page B1

# Edgy trading week seen

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 127 points on Friday but turned in a strong week because of two huge days of gains—a record 936-point jump on Monday and an increase of 400 points last Thursday.

"The Philippines may be at the mercy of these economies and their market outcomes. But compared to other nations in the Asian region, the local index could remain at a strong position in 2010 week," All-Capital analyst Arlyssa Narvios said.

Lucky Securities Inc. president Eddie Gobing said the Philippines was the least affected among Asian markets by the global market meltdown.

"That's because we're not that exposed to the subprime crisis," Gobing said.

He recommended to be defensive and invest in blue chips such as SM Prime Holdings Inc., SM Investments Corp., Globe Telecom Inc., Ayala Corp., Ayala Land Inc., Banco de Oro Unibank Inc., San Miguel Brewery, San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

P1.5B PRICE TAG

# Consunjis close to selling 98% stake in AG&P

## RLC goes after Koreans

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CONSTRUCTION HEAVYweight DMCI Holdings Inc. of the Consunji family is in talks with a New York-based investment bank for the sale of its 98 percent stake in Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company of Manila Inc. (AG&P), said to be the country's oldest construction company.

Sources said DMCI has reached an agreement in principle with the investor, which is expected to soon make a downpayment.

The Bulatlat online reported that AG&P formerly controlled by the Villanueva family and now 98 percent owned by DMCI, is worth about P13 billion. The remaining 2 percent stake in the 100-year-old company is owned by Mitsubishi of Japan and the Bankers Bank of Rotterdam, Echoes and Partners.

AG&P's main assets include a $100-million contract involving fabrication of steel structures for Iron Nickel, a mining firm in New Caledonia, a Pacific island territory of France.

AG&P is one of Asia's leading heavy engineering and steel fabrication firms.

It started as a general engineering and building contractor in the 1900s, according to its official website.

AG&P is under court rehabilitation after it secured a stay order from the Batangas Regional Trial Court last February 21, 2002, to suspend 6,000 payments.

As of end-2006, AG&P's total interest bearing loans to local banks and shareholders hit P1.6 billion.

AG&P filed for rehabilitation on January 31, 2002, before Branch 2 of the Batangas RTC, where its steel fabrication plant is located.

DMCI invested in AG&P before 1997 in a bid to strengthen its hold on the construction industry.

Aside from construction, DMCI is also into coal mining development through DMCI Homes and water distribution through Maynilad Water Services Inc.

As of the end of the first quarter, DMCI's income dropped 68 percent to P107 million from P337 million in the same period last year due mainly to foreign exchange losses booked by its power utility business.

In a financial report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, DMCI said construction, coal mine and coal mining operations continued to improve.

The same business, a joint venture with Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), reported adverse results for the period.

DMCI's share in net losses from the water business for the first quarter of 2006 was P246 million, reversing the P172-million share in net income for the first quarter of 2005.

## Alliance Tuna pursues N. Zealand acquisition

ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL Inc., an exporter of tuna products, is pursuing a majority acquisition into Kiwi company Pelsis Foods New Zealand (PFNZ), the second largest processor of salmon in that country, for roughly P115 million.

The acquisition is said to be part of Alliance Tuna's bid to expand into Oceania after the region controlling of islands in the Pacific region, including Australia, the Malay archipelago, Micronesia, Myanmar, New Zealand and Polynesia.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Alliance Tuna said it formed authorized management to sign a memorandum of agreement with Pelsis Foods and to conduct a due diligence review of the company before investing just for roughly 1.3 million New Zealand dollar equity into Pelsis Foods New Zealand (NZD).

PFNZ, established by Henry Stadholder, has been manufacturing and selling smoked seafood since 1994, including hot smoked, cold smoked and marinated salmon. Since then, it has grown to become one of the largest retail suppliers of smoked seafood in New Zealand, with a market share of 35 percent through its flagship brand, Prime Smoke.

PFNZ is the second largest processor and seller of salmon in New Zealand and the leading supplier of processed salmon to Progressive Enterprises, the biggest supermarket chain in New Zealand.

PFNZ is Alliance Tuna's second acquisition target in less than six months after investing in a tuna cannery in Indonesia.

Should the due diligence focus on equity investment to PFNZ, Alliance Tuna must buy at least 50 percent plus 1 share of PFNZ.

Alliance Tuna's proposed investment will consist of P40 million for a New Zealand factory and P76 million for the joint venture.

There will be funded using internal cash, Alliance Tuna president Jonathan Ong said.

Ong also said prospects for Alliance Tuna continues to be bright, despite the economic slowdown, with only 15 percent of export sales going to the United States. He said bulk of exports went to Europe and the Middle East. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

## Wellex shifts to chromite, cites drop in nickel prices

By Ana R. Roxas

SAN CALIXTO-OWNED WELLEX MINING said it would continue to invest in its Dinagat Island exploration project despite the sharp decline in the world prices of industrial metals.

Wellex president and CEO Wesley T. Gaerlan has said in a statement, however, that Wellex would "shift all its efforts and resource to its 2,400 hectare chromite area" because of the slump in nickel prices.

Global nickel prices fell sharply to $13,000 a ton this month from a record $34,000 a ton last year.

The current price, however, is still higher than the 10-year historical average of about $8,000-$9,000 a ton.

Nevertheless, the price drop has delayed the development of Wellex's 1,200-hectare nickel site in Dinagat.

Instead, Gaerlan disclosed that Wellex was in negotiations with two Chinese firms, both of which are end-users, for a possible joint venture in the Dinagat chromite mine site.

"This is in line with the government's thrust of bringing investments in the country," he added.

Wellex Mining has eight over 3,700 hectares in Dinagat Island.

It had already blocked 200 hectares of the area, which are expected to yield 250,000 metric tons of chromite ore.

The mining investment is held under a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, which "gives Wellex the advantage of operating on a long-term" basis, it said.

Mining development, including the building of roads, jetty, many access and other facilities in preparation for large-scale chromite operations is ongoing, Gaerlan said.

"Exploration results indicated superior quality of ore, including the presence of gold in our area. Thus, we are continuing our efforts in identifying more highly mineralized areas within the site," he added.

Dinagat Island, whose mining is one of the major sources of livelihood of local communities, is known to have rich chromite and nickel deposits.

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FORGET IT IF: You already bought an N95 8GB and don't have a spare P40,000 lying around

Text and photos by Charles E. Ibñez

IN BIOLOGY, EVOLUTION refers to the continuing process of change—nature's unending effort to improve living things.

The same process may be used to describe what has happened to Nokia's multifaceted phone, the N95.

When it was launched more than a year ago, it stunned the market with how it successfully incorporated to its unique two-way sliding body a builder, global positioning system receiver, Wi-Fi, a 5-megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss lens, and 3.5G capability (enabling fast downloads at up to 3.6 Mbps).

While the N95 was considered the finest converged device of its time, it wasn't perfect.

In the months that followed, the N95 8G was introduced to address the original's most basic life and namely, 160MB of internal memory (using a microSD card could only stretch the N95 to about up to 12GB of data).

## Successor

Then, exactly a week ago, Nokia finally unveiled this new successor to the N95—the N96.

With few colors design tweaks, the N96 retained the look and feel of its predecessor.

While it's still inch (just 2 mm thinner than the N95), it's now a bit lighter at 125 grams and more streamlined design-wise.

The N96 also has rounded rounded edges as well as simpler, flatter front face to convey a more minimalist feel (the only protrusion are the five-way directional pad and TV-out audio button).

## Improvements

But don't be deceived. The N96 has everything a gadget freak could want, including a much improved internal memory of 16GB (which can be expanded to up to 24GB using a microSDHC), an advanced grab of satellite positioning receiver that allows photos to be tagged with geographical information before being uploaded to an online gallery, a much improved camera (it's now equipped with two LED photo lights that aid in dim conditions, and great video playback quality).

But what probably is the "killer" application of this P40,000 device is the N96's integrated DVB-H (short for digital video broadcasting-handheld) tuner that allows it to receive cable programs (depot subscribers should be glad about this new feature).

For example, here in the Philippines, a subscriber using the N96 could watch CNN, MTV Philippines, Cartoon Network, National Geographic, Fox's Best Offline, The History Channel, Solar Sports, Basketball TV, ETC and Jack TV programs.

At no added licensing convenience, the N96 also has a dynamic electronic program guide and "Last Watched" folder for downloaded content.

## Better experience

While mobile TV is already being enjoyed here since Nokia introduced the N92 and N77 last year, watching programs on the N96 promises to be a better experience.

The N96's 2.8-inch QVGA (240 x 320 pixels) screen with 16 million color display seems to deliver darker blacks and brighter colors than the N95 (despite the fact that both share similar screen specifications).

For added convenience, the N96 features a "kickstand" on the back cover (located around the camera lens) that allows for hands-free viewing.

In addition, the "Loops "stereo headset" headphone jack on the top of the N96 is perfect for attaching external speakers or headsets.

Indeed, Nokia's flagship smartphone just got better. While the N96 specifications are more of an evolution, rather than a revolution when compared to its predecessor, the device is never-the-less, a refinement that brings Internet connectivity and navigation to the next level.

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# Sony refreshes Bravia LCD TVs

By Raquel P Gamos

WHILE MARKET PRICES KEEP GOING down, LCD televisions, particularly those made by electronics giant Sony, also keep getting better, brighter and prettier.

This time around, the pioneer in LCD TV technology has recently come up with a new Bravia LCD TV the J4500 equipped with Motionflow 240 Hz technology—it means that consumers there must never homes there must never homes there must control 100 Hz implementation of LCD TVs. (the number of frames motion produced with 240 Hz is about 20% faster per second).

Sony officials said the company was again the first to come out with the LCD TV with a 240 Hz motion representation for a more true, pulsless, free flowing image while reducing dimension and motion blur.

To be released in December, the 40-inch J4500 will be available in 40-, 46- and 52-inch sizes. Apart from Motionflow 240 Hz innovation, it also features 1,920 x 1,080-pixel resolution, Bravia Engine 2 PRO, digital media port, backlit remote control, 1000x24 input mode, and three HDMI inputs.

Sony also launched new Bravia X series with slimmer bezels, floating speakers, and more wireless connectivity. Available in eight-

ARI D4GB with Sony Bravia X series with Motionflow 240 Hz technology compared with an image with only 60 Hz frame reproduction

ous color copper gold and silver bezels, the new Bravia X series already have Sony's Bravia Engine 2 PRO processor—a powerful processor that controls and manages resolution, contrast, motion and noise reduction.

The Bravia X series also feature the new RGB LED backlighting technology that boosts dynamic contrast to over 1,000,000:1.

The Bravia S4500s features both USB 2.0 and Ethernet connectivity to enable users to play MP3 and JPEG playback support from networked shared devices, as well as network streaming via DLNA-certified Digital Living Network Alliance) devices.

The refreshed Sony LCD TVs also feature the Bravia Sync, which provides user with multiple functions using high-definition multimedia interface control. With a single remote control, the user can control devices that make up your Sony Home Theater System.

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## Finally on the Consumer Electronics Map!

T3 presents the country's first world-class consumer electronics show

Year after year, you've always wished to see the coolest electronic gizmos and touch the newest gadgets that appear at international consumer electronics shows in The United States, Japan, and well pretty much the rest of the world. Well, your wish is about to be granted as Manila is finally making its mark with the first and only world-class electronics show this October.

Consumer Electronics Live! Manila (CEL Manila) boasts of having the top electronic brands such as Sony, Canon, Samsung, Nokia, Apple, LG, and HP. The exhibit spans 12 categories, making this is the first time all sorts of tech will be under one roof. The sprawling facilities of the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex means over 9,000 square meters of the latest flat-screen TVs, mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and so much more!

With Filipinos being increasingly tech-savvy, CEL Manila encourages visitors of all age groups to listen, feedback, even taste technology if they can. And only CEL Manila can provide that venue. Aside from the world-class exhibits, get ready to experience the hand-made and bargains to share with CEL Manila's retail and selling area—perfect if you're looking for that bargain just before the Christmas Holiday shopping rush.

Visitors are encouraged to pre-register online until October 22 and avail of free admission. Simply log on to www.celmanila.com.

So whether you're a self-professed tech geek, a casual gadget lover or looking for the best deal in town, head over to the SMX Convention Center from 24 to 26 October 2008 and hunker down. CEL Manila is the premiere event of Summit Live, the exhibitions arm of Summit Media.

## *Apple tries aluminum out for size*

CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA—APPLE Inc. last week cut the price on its entry-level notebook computer to $999 and introduced a line of aluminum-clad machines starting at $1,299 in moves catering to budget-minded buyers at a time when economists fears loom over the global economy.

But shares of Apple, which have risen about 20 percent since the company recently rattled reporters to a notebook event, fell 3 percent in heavy trade on the Nasdaq to $110.96 even after falling as much as 9 percent. Many analysts had expected the entry-level notebook price to fall to $999.

"Bad for the stock today, good for the stock over the next couple of months," said Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster, who said that the new machines looked good even if the new entry-level price was not as low as Wall Street had hoped.

The new line of aimed notebooks, starting at $1,299, are in what Gartner analyst Van Baker called the current state of Apple's line. Previously, a white plastic-body machine held the spot.

"The biggest news is the $1,299 MacBook," Apple's move hits hard.

The $999 price will be for an updated model of the white body notebook. The new aluminum machines will have Nvidia Corp. graphics and Intel Corp. processors.

When asked if Apple would get into the market for touch "netbook" notebook computers, Jobs said, "It's a market we watch," and that Apple would not have it exist.

Apple also rolled out an $899.24 matte white display for the new MacBooks.

*Reuters*

# In Intel-driven unit, workhorse lies in wait

By Raquel P. Gomez

INTEL INTRODUCTION: THE rest of the Centrino 2 chipset for notebooks and laptops has proved the way for a new generation of laptops that can rival the performance of mid-tower desktop computers for enterprise and gaming desktops that are energy efficient and work longer on battery life of over.

The Centrino 2 chipset, also known as Montevina, includes a Core 2 Duo processor that supposedly has the new "Penryn" core architecture. The new Intel CPU is shrunk to 45 nanometers (a unit of the 45 nm fabrication technology used to produce integrated circuits). Penryn chips, offering a bigger FSB (front side bus) and L2 Cache, consuming only 25 watts.

By shrinking the CPU, Intel was able to increase the core speed without increasing electricity consumption. Compared with a similar clocked Merom Core 2 Duo, the Penryn Core 2 Duo is about 5 to 10 percent faster, according to CPU benchmarks done by [illegible] benchmarks done by [illegible].

The explosive new laptops with Centrino 2 chips are considered to be powerful enough capable of completing the most demanding jobs such as rich online games and high definition [illegible] movies, while using less power.

For example, Centrino 2 chips make it possible for gamers to build so-called "LAN" parties playing demonstrations online games with heavy graphics [illegible].

One of the IC vendors that first adopted Intel's mainstreamed chip

**DRAPHICS-RICH online games rendered in close crisp display**

was Lenovo with its new multimedia workhorse, the Y510.

Lenovo Y510 belongs to Lenovo's blissful family of laptops intended for entertainment and multimedia functions or to house desktop replacements.

Lenovo Y510 runs on the Penryn Intel Core 2 Duo processor P8600 2.4 GHz, with 1066 MHz FSB, and 3 MB L2 Cache. It also chipset is the 45 generation Mobile Intel 45 Express, which offers capabilities, like enhanced Intel clear video technology, improved security, integrated high definition capability, support for digital display like HDMI, and power management features for longer battery life.

Aside from 2 GB DDR2 667 MHz memory modules, Lenovo Y510 packs in a dedicated 512 MB 128 bit nVidia GeForce 9500 M and a massive 320 GB SATA hard drive.

Also, with Wi-Fi capability, the Lenovo Y510 has the new Intel Wi-Fi Link 5000 series, which can deliver five times the speed and twice the range of older 802.11 a/g technology. This new Wi-Fi and already provides 802.11 draft-N support to deliver the fastest possible data rates design to 400 Mbps.

So with Lenovo Y510 running on the new Centrino 2 processor plus the Mobile Intel 45 Express Chipset and the Intel WiFi Link 5000, gamers will be able to play and enjoy rich online games to any Wi-Fi hotspot.

Lenovo Y510 looks and weighs every inch a multimedia laptop (about 2.9kg at 39.62cm x 26.66cm x 29.2-36.2mm dimensions).

It has a 15.6-inch WSXGA ultra clear frameless widescreen display and a 1.3 megapixel camera with built-in security feature. It offers 4.1 Dolby Home Theater sound four speakers to each side of the full-sized keyboard and below the screen and a proximity subwoofer underneath, so Optimus digital layer media features SV-D409 drive that can also play Blu-Ray media, and microphone (for the lucky lucky below the lid).

Suggested retail price for this workhorse, which already comes with a 6-cell lithium battery is P49,500.

# Unable to stick to your school budget? Try mobile chatting

By Rica T. Chichioco

HERE'S A SAVINGS OPPORTUnity for Globe Telecom Inc. subscribers! The value is offering a free trial of Yahoo! Messenger via mobile under the Unlichat promo.

For friends and subscribers on the same network, they will enjoy free and unlimited chatting for three, instead of having to call or text each other.

Four members, though, how will the service look on a small screen? Since Yahoo! Messenger does not take up much real estate on the computer screen to begin with, there's not much to be compressed.

And the best part is, the service will be free of charge during the trial period from Sept. 5 to Oct. 20.

Getting the Palanca-Santiago, head of corporate business group of Globe, said that starting Oct. 20, subscribers need to have P50 worth of credits for the 1 day unlimited access, P100 for 5 days unlimited access, and P200 for 15 days unlimited access.

To be able to use Unlichat's IM service, get the GPRS settings by texting Get <handset model> to 2081. (e.g. GO W75 to 2081) or call the hotline at 211 or 730-3000. Once received, save the settings using myGlobe Connect as your default APN.

Download the application for free by texting CHAT to 2079. You will get an SMS with the link www.unlichat.com. Click or the link or open it from your mobile internet browser. Click the BUY link to download the UNLICHAT application through your phone's internet browser.

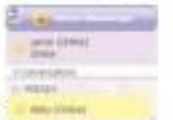
You may also go to myGlobe WAP or wap.portal.globe.com.ph. Select the Messaging link, click on the UNLICHAT link and download the application to the.

After download, install the application when prompted. Click on the UNLICHAT icon from the Applications folder or launch it. Enter your Yahoo! ID and password.

One caveat: Unlichat limits the display of contact lists to 150 buddies, and new contacts cannot be added to this list when the limit is reached. Otherwise, all changes made in your contact list using UNLICHAT will apply to your YM account. So, if you delete a contact on your mobile YM using Unlichat, you will no longer have them on your list when you access YM on your desktop computer, for example.

UNLICHAT is supported by the Nokia 3230, 5700, 6220c, 6630, 6680, 6670, 672, 673, 6770, 6890, N82, N91, N95, N95, 8GB, and E61; and Sony Ericsson K810i, K770i, K800i, K610i, W810i, W910i, W850i, W960i, and W660i.

So the future, many phones will be able to support new services, such as mobile IM, so we are confident that more young people will be able to stay connected with family, acquaintances and friends beyond texting," Palanca-Santiagotta said.



**UNLICHAT allows users to view groups and contacts, both online and offline.**

# Dell reinvents Vostro laptops for small businesses

**DELL Vostro A860 and A840**

DELL HAS UNVEILED TWO new Vostro laptops designed specifically to meet the needs of small businesses and mobile professionals operating on limited budgets in the world's emerging economies.

The new Vostro laptops will be available through authorized channel partners, as well as direct from Dell in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

The value-configured laptops maintain affordability with quality and reliability. The products are backed by specially designed support services that serve to fuel the company's commitment to emerging economies.

The 15.4-inch Dell Vostro A860 laptop is ideal for customers interested in transitioning from desktop to mobile computing. It offers an HD widescreen LCD with anti-glare coating, the choice of a variety of Intel® processors from Celeron® to CoreTM 2 Duo and the choice of Ubuntu® Linux® or Microsoft® Genuine Windows Vista® operating systems. The laptop also offers an integrated network, modem and wireless connectivity with optional Bluetooth capabilities.

The 14.1-inch Dell Vostro A840 is a version of the A860 laptop with an anti-glare WXGA widescreen LCD. It offers the same practical offerings for small business customers who value mobility and compact size at an affordable price.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# With Veriton, Acer maximizes efficiency

IF YOU ARE THE KIND OF person that values the importance of a computer running smoothly, relatively unfazed, significantly, regardless of the operating system and/or processor environment, especially in your place of work, then the Acer Veriton M261 is a good choice.

For its operating system, the Acer Veriton M261 runs on the relatively run on the new and exciting Windows Vista Business, Windows XP Professional or even the Linux Linux enables an open-source environment. With these options available, Acer provides the consumer the flexibility to choose the operating system with which to run his PC.

As for the choice of processors, the Veriton M261 can support the Intel Core 2 Duo processor, the Pentium Dual Core and, to everybody's surprise, even mailer yet still effective and efficient processors like the Celeron D, Celeron and Celeron D types. Coupled with a SIS 672 + ICH 9M chipset and a DDR2 memory module, the Acer Veriton M261 will step in reliable to you.

Even the display screen options is rarely outmoded by Veriton M261, where customers can choose either an LCD or the traditional CRT monitor.

The Veriton M261 comes with an integrated SIS Mirage 3 graphics with PCI Express x16 graphics card support. And with an embedded high-definition audio with 7.1-channel audio support, viewing corporate AVIs or other graphics-heavy files would be a true walk-in-the-park. The Veriton can accommodate a SATA hard disk drive for safe and secure storage of all important files.

The Veriton M261 has many expansion slots and drive bays for optical media to increase flexibility. These are usually all-in-one media drives.

# BUSINESS

# Philex shops around for acquisition targets

## Mining company checks out two local, foreign firms

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TOP GOLD AND COPPER PRODUCER Philex Mining Corp. is keen on acquiring other mining companies after it completes the sale of 20 percent of its shares to Newmont in Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. for P6.2 billion.

Philex chair Isidro Consunji said that First Pacific, represented in the Philippines by telecommunications king Manuel V. Pangilinan, was committed to acquiring the 20-percent block, despite questions posed by Philex shareholder and state pension fund Social Security System (SSS).

SSS owns 24 percent of Philex and it had argued that the position had should have been given the opportunity to exercise its preemptive right or the right to have the first crack at buying any Philex shares that are up for sale.

"It has cost us a lot of time, effort. It jeopardized the transaction because in the interim, the commodities prices kept on recapping and if Mr. Pangilinan had not been a man of his word, he could have easily found a legal reason to question the transaction to back out (of the deal)," Bonoan said.

Philex director Nisbeth Ong-pin, who led the negotiations for First Pacific's investment in Philex, said that despite questions raised by SSS, First Pacific will buy 20 percent by Nov. 28 in Philex.

"We almost lost that deal but it's definitely going through. By Nov. 16, we will have to cut-off P6.2 billion in cash in addition to P1.2 billion which we have today," Ongpin said.

Confident that the sale will push through, the mining chair said it was now studying four potential targets, two of which are listed in bourses abroad.

It is sitting aside between $300 million and $500 million for each potential acquisition.

Bonoan admitted that Philex had looked at mining properties of Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp., the Kingking copper gold project of Benguet Corp. in Compostela Valley in the Davao region, and Oliver Mining, which has a gold and copper project in Northern Luzon, but that these assets were no longer on Philex's radar screen.

Philex is now focused on completing its takeover of the Boyongan copper gold project in Surigao, which will ensure that Philex will continue its mining operations after the shutdown of Padcal mine in Benguet by 2014.

Bonoan, meantime, said that should SSS exercise its preemptive right, Philex management will make sure that First Pacific will still get a 10-percent stake.

Should this happen, SSS, now the single largest shareholder of Philex, would be on equal footing with First Pacific as the Philex board with two board seats each.

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Publication of Invitation to apply for Eligibility and to Bid | To be determined | 21 - 27 October 2009 |
| 2 | Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents | To be determined | 26 - 28 October 2009 (8:00 AM) |
| 3 | Pre-Eligibility Check | To be determined | 27 October 2009 (1:30 PM) |
| 4 | a. Submission of Eligibility Documents<br>b. Opening of Eligibility Documents | To be determined | 30 October 2009<br>a. 12:00 NN<br>b. 2:00 PM |
| 5 | Eligibility Check / Short Listing of Eligible Contractors | To be determined | 30 October - 10 November 2009 |
| 6 | Issuance of Notice of Eligibility Check | To be determined | 10 November 2009 |
| 7 | Issuance and availability of Bid Documents | To be determined | 10 - 23 November 2009 |
| 8 | Preparation of Bids | To be determined | 11 - 23 November 2009 |
| 9 | Pre-Bid Conference | To be determined | 12 November 2009 (1:30PM) |
| 10 | Request for Clarifications | To be determined | 13 - 16 November 2009 |
| 11 | Clarifications from Bid Bulletin, if any | To be determined | 17 November 2009 |
| 12 | a. Submission of Bids<br>1. Technical Proposal<br>2. Financial Proposal<br>b. Opening of Bids (1 & 2) | To be determined | 24 November 2009<br>a. 11:00 AM<br>b. 2:00 PM |
| 13 | Evaluation/Determination of Lowest Calculated Bid/Highest Rated Bid | To be determined | 24 - 30 November 2009 |
| 14 | BAC deliberation on the result of Evaluation | To be determined | 01 December 2009 |
| 15 | Approval of Resolution of Award/Notice of Award (NOA) to BAC | To be determined | 02 December 2009 |
| 16 | Signing of Contract | To be determined | 03 December 2009 |
| 17 | Issuance of Notice to Proceed | To be determined | 04 December 2009 |

The BAC will issue Eligibility Forms at the BCDA Corporate Center, 23rd Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** on October 26 **to 27 2009** upon receipt of Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable amount of **P100 (ONE HUNDRED PESOS)** each. The LOI shall be submitted on **October 26 to 28 2009 (8:00 AM)**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Documents to the BAC on the said schedule, not later than **October 30, 2009, 12:00 NN**. They may also check the results of the Eligibility Check, Short Listing on the same day at **2:00 PM**.

The BAC will issue Bid Documents to those who have been pronounced by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P40, 000 (FORTY THOUSAND PESOS)** each.

The BAC reserves its respective rights not to pronounce or declare any bidder to be eligible for the purpose of submission of Bids.

For further information and/or clarification regarding the Project, please get in touch with Engr. Edward C. Evangelista and Engr. Marjorie B. Ignacio at tel. nos. 816-0851 to 54 loc. 3211 & 816-7120 to 29 loc. 3211 or fax no. 816-0851 loc. 3211.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

# Guagua guitars strum weakly amid China competition

PROUD of legacy, Clemente Bacani Lamoreng shows his guitars.

Text and photos by Tonnie Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA—SEVEN ELECTRIC guitars, each packed in a leather bag, hang from a clothesline in the cluttered workshop of Eustaco Hizondo.

But the 59-year-old craftsman is not yet done. Peering from his thick eyeglasses, he puts five-year-old Ariell to work to carve hollows on the pickups for 20 more guitars. His three workers are so busy, meticulously hand sanding the rough surfaces of the kalio (ready body).

Guitar-making endures in his village of San Antonio 2nd Aman in order residential. By the roadside, 12 or so stores are open, selling the village's greatest pride.

## How to save the guitar industry:

- Improve technology used in making local accessories
- Integrate vocational courses in guitar-making in high schools
- Government should provide loans and provide marketing support
- Organize cooperatives for borrowings lubrafin and loans

Down on Tramo, a 2-km strip of abandoned railroad track, the roar of backyard factories houses with the sound of sandpaper screeching on the tapa (soundboard) or hand (back brace) of acoustic guitars or with the hiene of machines that shape the body of electronic guitars.

There are signs that San Antonio's entrepreneurs there see guitars, up by grabs for the screaming and clashing by amplifyre and professional musicians.

But these cues are so far done out of tenacity. Truth is, local guitar makers are groaning from the influx of cheap pieces from China.

"Only a few buyers came last week," laments Clemente Bacani Lamoreng, 62, as he sits behind his desk, studying the stocks while waiting for clients.

### Competition

They started feeling the stiff competition from China getters in 2003, says Jessy Imp, who was among those who tried to form a cooperative of craftsmen.

The slump has been sharp, with the monthly production in the last three years dropping from between 10,000 and 20,000 pieces to 1,500 pieces.

Lamoreng sells some China-made guitars but admits only for the bass.

"I'm very careful. I know which work is fine," he says.

Edgar Tadeda, whose store is across from Lamoreng's, is pragmatist to a point.

"I know how to make one, why should I sell those from China?" Tadeda says.

Arnel Fernando, a laborer, misses the good old times.

"In the 1980s, we worked until the wee hours of the morning. Now, pauliminan ka lang," he says. Fernando drives for a car rental company to earn extra.

In those years, more than 50 factories specializing in the manufacture of the guitar's main body operated in the town. In September, there are down to less than 20, still keeping a heavy workforce of five to 10 each.

With the competition from China, the Kapampangan industry is "salagang pagsisiyasat (on the brink of death)," says Imp. Pia Tadeda, it is "nagkakagulo (grasping for breath)."

For the youngest guitar entrepreneur around, 24-year-old Francis Hizondo, the industry needs more creative and energetic marketing strategies.

But they won't bow down to the competition.

MORE B2

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**MAPping the Future**

*Roberto S. Bernardo*

THE CAPITAL MARKET serves a crucial role in the economic and national development of the country. A dynamic and robust capital market will provide access to funds to finance the business activities of corporations, entrepreneurs and financial investors. Through such means, the capital market, developmental because it juice venture by the private sector and the government in the Philippines, national development has to a great extent been propelled by government, as the equity market has not grown to its full potential.

The interest and advocacy of corporate governance in the last few years has provided the impetus toward the development of the equity market, as corporations begin to realize the importance of good corporate governance.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Insurance Commission—the three major government regulators—through their passage of appropriate corporate governance rules has strengthened observance of good governance practices in the Philippines.

The remarkable macroeconomic performance of the country in the past year or so, as well as positive policies that encourage investment, had attracted significant interest by foreign investors to the Philippine capital market.

However, its growth has been modest, at best, compared to other newly industrialized countries whose stock markets have been performing robustly.

The key perhaps to a stable environment, both from foreign and domestic investors is to have a realistic watchdog that would monitor the activities of the market and facilitate full disclosure of material information to improve transparency and fairness.

Such an association would:

- Promote full disclosure and transparency in the capital market. The SEC Code of Corporate Governance has adequate provisions that mandate full disclosure of material information by listed companies. However, most of the information are hardly ever filed with the Commission, and whenever they are filed, the information remains largely with SEC. The information is not properly disseminated to the investing public.
- Establish an independent market watch group to discourage price manipulations and trading irregularities in the stock market. The Philippine Stock Exchange has long been perceived as an old boys' club, but recent (re-)election by the SEC and the opening up of the PSE as a listed company itself, and a current board that has committed itself to corporate governance had helped make it more transparent, and the proposed market watch group would help ensure that it remains so.
- Educate minority shareholders, particularly in publicly listed companies of their rights and how to effectively exercise them.

In the Philippines, while it is true that the SEC rule has specific provisions for the protection of minority shareholders, they are generally unaware of even their most basic rights and often fail to exercise them. An organized effort to educate minority shareholders and encourage them to be more active participants would compel majority shareholders and management issues of their corporations to treat all shareholders equally and fairly.

- Propose and institute (sectoral and legislative reforms that will help speed up the establishment of better corporate governance practices.
- Provide training and/or consultancy services for minority shareholders, other investors and participants in the securities market regarding aspects of corporate governance.

The suggested market watch group is not intended to be another bureaucratic beast. It must be clear that this would be a private initiative whose objective is to encourage a wider participation by the general public in the stock exchange, thus enabling the deepening and widening of the Philippine capital market. The economic development of the Philippines should no longer be the undertaking of the government alone, which often is considered inefficient and expensive. It should as much be the responsibility of the private sector, as a participant in investing, which can help push the investment multiplying. Businessmen, who are astute in making profits, will realize that a well-functioning capital market will provide them with cheaper funds, thereby ensuring future development.

*The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is managing partner of R. S. Bernardo & Associates. Feedback at mapping@info.inter.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph.*

# *UP proves RP can hold its ground in finance*

THE TEAM from the University of the Philippines Diliman include Jean Carol Isip, Bryan Christof Baes, Ms. Theresa Pantinan, Dennis Santiago and Rustan Paolo Bulusan

THE PHILIPPINE'S PREMIER state university, University of the Philippines, has one more reason to celebrate its centennial year—entering the prestigious Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) for the third time in 13 years.

The team from the University of the Philippines Diliman, consisting of Dennis Santiago, Rustan Paolo Bulusan, Bryan Christof Baes, Ms. Theresa Pantinan, and Jean Carol Isip, bested 23 other schools for the top spot—19 from the Philippines and four from Southeast Asia.

Top schools from Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Assumption University of Thailand, Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, participated in the finals held recently at the Shangri-la Sentral ng Pilipinas (SSP) northwing.

The finals had 50 questions distributed in four rounds that progressed in difficulty. The questions, based on the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level 1 body of knowledge, ranged from Corporate Finance to Economics to Ethics.

BAP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr., who gave the keynote address, praised the competitors for the relevance of its topics, ethics in particular, in light of the current financial scenario.

It was a tight race. At one point, UP-Diliman, Ateneo De Manila University (AdMU) and De La Salle University (DLSU) were tied for first place. In the end, UP-Diliman won with 940 points, followed closely by AdMU with 920 points. DLSU garnered 900 points to secure third place.

The highest ranking provincial school also came from the UP system—UP-Iloilo ranked 6th with 620 points.

The presence of four foreign schools in the competition only made the UPDiliman team more determined to make their alma mater and country proud. With their coaches, Dave Boots and Christine Salinas, the five team members prepared for the competition for an entire semester.

Boots shared that what the team relishes are "the bragging rights. Winning in the consecutive year and winning against top Philippine and foreign schools."

The cash prize is just a bonus."

UP-Diliman received P138,000 from CIA As 1st runner up, AdMU received P80,000 and DLSU received P40,000. Three members of the champion team are entitled to a scholarship grant from the Asian Institute of Management worth P700,000 each.

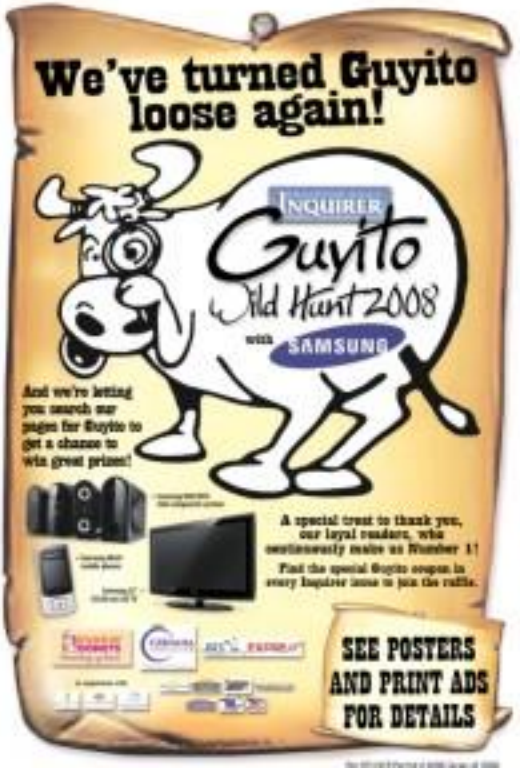
When asked about their future plans after graduation, Isip said, "We still plan to take the CFA Level 1 exam since we have already studied it for the competition."

The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) title is a professional designation for investment field that upholds competence, professionalism and the highest ethical standards. It is awarded to investment professionals who pass a series of three examinations and four years of minimum work experience.

"Hopefully someone will sponsor us," the skilled jokingly. All five, who are business administration and accountancy honor students, are considering careers in the fields of investment, banking and finance. The team was cured in their desire to put their knowledge and education in fields that would need to benefit from it the most.

"The ICFC continually raises the education standards to the field of finance and gives Philippine schools an opportunity to compete in an international platform," says Mark G. Yu, CFA, 13th ICFC chair and CFA Philippines director.

The sponsors for this year's ICFC Finals are Citi, CFA Philippines, Asian Institute of Management, Ibon Land and Liberalpas, Novopia and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.



# Guagua guitars strum ...

From page B1-1

tion. Not yet, because they believe they have what it takes to number the rivalry.

**Reputation**

The industry banks on the reputation of good craftsmanship built by pioneers beginning with Tecla Bacani in 1936 followed by the Lumayong brothers.

"We've losing out because China-made pieces are cheaper but in terms of quality our makers have the edge," says Morales.

Like other traditional craftsmen here, he is involved in every step of the production until each piece comes up to his standards.

Much is still done by hand here, with skills honed by decades of work. Expertise, says Morales, is developed by exposure and experience, not simply by working with machines.

Lumayong traces the industry's survival to the man of times.

The use of fine domestic guitars by celebrity musicians Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Freddie Aguilar is something of an endorsement, says Isip.

Singer Shamcie Rivera said local guitar makers say the industry however, needs big help to promote the lifeblood of some 700 families dear depend on it.

One is by developing local sources for materials. The hardwood could be supplied by growing mini-forests, say in Pantabangan, which is less affected by floods, compared to Gagua.

They said the technology to make local accessories must also be improved.

To ensure that the standards of workmanship are maintained and continued to the younger generations, the training can be integrated to vocational courses to the secondary level.

The national or local governments, they said, can also help by opening loan windows or providing aggressive marketing support. Getting organized to cooperatives could help them get loans or technology transfer.

Isip, on a P200,000 grant from Board Member Catalino Bagsitan, has branched out into designing guitar-styled furniture like tables and wine racks. He plans to put up a guitar museum for San Antonio to showcase the craft and the industry.

The local craftsmen's descendants are doing their bit to make the industry bustle the hard times.

Patrick Morales took over the business when his father, Antonio, died last year. The younger Morales consolidated the workshops and diversified the business by renting out sound systems and organizing concerts.

Edwin sustains the business by supporting it on income made from selling other musical instruments, sporting goods or appliances.

But the prime problem remains the lost domestic guitar.

"Ang gusong San Anton, walang sira, quality ang performance ng gitara (Guitars made in San Anton are synonymous with simplicity and quality)," boasts Rabuda.

DIMESTO Morales (left) continues to be a traditional craftsman of guitars. Hands-on, he does every phase of the production process, assisted by a small band of longtime workers.

# Why confidence in financial institutions help the economy

By Greg Manano
Contributor

A DECENT RELATIVE ONCE reminded me about the chances of recovering deposits in a closed bank. She and her husband were both retired government employees and they deposited all of their retirement funds into this one bank on their promised very good interest.

Alas, the bank was closed by the Central Bank but they were promised some compensation from deposit insurance. They did get that insurance compensation but as you can imagine, it was nothing compared to what they had lost. In other was supposed to be their retirement years, they suddenly found themselves penniless and had to find some source of livelihood to sustain their daily needs. They sold a property that was inherited, converted their house into an apartment for rent and set up a small convenience store.

That story is multiplied by the number of depositors that have been severely affected by the closure of the bank.

One of the case studies included in the book "The Power to Govern" precisely deals with the story of one such failed bank. A joint effort of the Pamantasan ng Arnaldo (PAA) Foundation and the Financial Executives of the Philippines (Finex), the book features six case studies on the efforts of local companies to institutionalize corporate governance. Some of these companies were quite successful in adhering to the principles of good corporate governance, while some, unfortunately, were not.

The Polytechnic Savings Bank Inc. (PSBI) was established as a thrift bank in 1969 in Cotamaran, Camarines Sur. It was a thriving institution, contributing three other branches to the province, until the Asian financial crisis of 1997 hit. The following year, the bank incurred its first loss, which was a sign of things to come.

By the end of 2000, the bank reported a loss of P21 million. This was preceded by eight straight years of losses that, combined, wiped out the bank's entire capital account.

The auditor company of PSBI is the Weyward Group of Companies, which is involved in commercial banking, in real estate, in tourism, manufacturing and stock brokerage. Watson had it first. Weyward's buy-in was done in haste and with minimum due diligence audit. To save the thrift bank from dwindling capital, Weyward was forced to inflate and fabricate capital—PSBI posted P62.2 million in order to continue operating as a thrift bank. Soon after that, however, the majority owner decided to sell the bank instead, resulting in the impression that the bank's performance would not improve due to weak management.

After negotiations with four potential buyers, no one expressed any real interest to complete the purchase.

Left with no choice, the PSBI decided to focus on a rehabilitation program designed to address the capital deficiencies and operational issues of the bank. Our doctors, though, remained skeptical about the foreseeable turnaround.

Various financial characteristics by the management of the bank were

BTS B2-4

## *Indian delegation in PBC*

THE INDIAN BUSINESS DELEGATION representing the India-Philippines Business Council (IPBC) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) of New Delhi, India will be in Manila from Oct. 20 to 24, 2008 to participate in the 24th Philippine Business Conference and Exposition (PBCE) and 22nd Conference of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Cocci).

The members of the said delegation are composed of businessmen and industrialists who are looking for partners and tie-ups in the areas of Agro Food Processing, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Construction Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Life Sciences, Education, Real Estate, Mass Transportation, Mines Gad, Jewellery and Iron Ore Mining.

The Philippines-India Business Council (PIBC) of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is organizing a Joint Meeting of the Philippines-India Business Council and the India-Philippines Business Council (IBC-IPBC) on Oct. 22, 2008 (Wednesday) from 7:30 to 10 a.m. at the Champagne Room, Manila Hotel.

For queries, call 834-0149 local 333.

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# Do value-investing and mutual funds go together?

By Sixto Duplito
Inquirer net

[LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE ON VALUE-style investing, entitled "Bull-Ayn-style investing: shrug" has created quite a stir among readers of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and its online news publication, Inquirer.net.

We have asked the president of the Chartered Financial Analysts of the Philippines, Vandermyr Say, to answer two of our most urgent questions.]

Q: I have gained an irresistible knack in mutual funds that are managed by a reputable fund manager in the Philippines. I am not so technically proficient in the markets as Sir. Say, thus I chose to be more of a defensive investor rather than an active one—finding more in funds that are invested in balanced funds, while a small percentage is to money market funds. However, I am reevaluating my asset allocation strategy. As this point, I'm thinking of parking in money market funds or something even less "risky" (like certificates of deposit). Would this be a good move? And does the principle of peso cost averaging still apply in a financial environment so volatile as we have today?—Jericho, via e-mail

Say: A passive investor (like you would do well by investing in index funds, since such a fund is generally cheaper and, therefore, reduces the costs of having an exposure to the stock market over a number of years. Index funds are cheaper now and may get cheaper going forward, therefore, index funds are becoming more attractive.

During this current crisis, you may also want to allocate more funds to cash. The size of the allocation depends on your risk-tolerance requirements.

Q: I invested money with BDO in one of its mutual fund countries in July 2006. Another amount was invested with Philam, also in one of its mutual funds, just four days before Lehman declared bankruptcy. Both investments are still in the red, and my husband invested P1 million in SSS Life with one of Inquirer's and turned in the amount of P220,000.

Are the above investments in the light of the present financial crisis? Did we make the right placements for our hard-earned money? Or want to save for our retirement and old age. Entering into our business was, I am a sure, a choice for us—Amelia, via e-mail

Say: Investors must determine how much they can put into the markets without becoming and without drastically affecting their lifestyles. Don't depend on leverage (debt) to generate investment returns.

When an investor seeks to follow the value style of investment, the investor should either invest in a value-style mutual fund or in an index fund. In the developed markets, there are numerous value-style mutual funds. One could also deeply invest in Berkshire Hathaway, the main company of Warren Buffett.

The problem with a lot of investors is that they invest in actual funds that do not deliver superior returns. Theoretically and in practice, we observe that a majority of mutual funds fail to beat a passive index. For example, one can compare the returns of a mutual fund against the PHISIX or S&P 500.

In investments, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The value style of investment requires one to invest only in things one understands. This supports the index fund investment model, since if one cannot make an intelligent conclusion on the superiority of a mutual fund, investing in the index that tracks the movements of the whole market makes more sense.

This is us, since, as we now can see, institutions are thought deserved nor trust actually did not. As Buffett says, "You always find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out." Recently he said: "We found out that Wall Street has been kind of a media hoax."

Intrigued and villas are very important when investing especially when you still become a minority shareholder in a business. If the management of a company has displayed a low level of ethics or integrity that you should reconsider your investment in that company. Sometimes, investors only decide to act on these kinds of views when assets have been lost already.

An investor can use a you are, ranging method when the investor is fairly certain that the business is superior and will continue to produce cash and increase in the future. Gambling on a point or speculative play makes less sense as more money may be lost if the gamble doesn't work out.

If you want to read more about value investing, you may read Mr. Say's blog at http://say-value.blogspot.com/)

## Online tips to use credit wisely

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION on how to better manage your credit card? How about financial planning tools to help you save up for your children's education or retirement? Answers may be found in Citibank Philippines' Do Credit Wisely website.

Simply point your browser to www.yourcreditwise.citibank.com.ph to access round-the-clock information on the following topics:

- Know the Rules, which gives users information on all things about credit and how credit cards work.
- Spend Responsibly, where one can find details on gaining financial control and handling hard times such as living with a disability or how to cope following a marriage breakdown.
- Be Protected, that treats users to information on fraud prevention, identity theft and Balo-Balo (gift).

According to Citibank Philippines' country business manager, Ethel Jones, their Do Credit Wisely website continues to enjoy visitor traffic, and has become a leading source of financial information among their clients and the general public.

"We continue to receive positive feedback on Do Credit Wisely, plus suggestions on related information that our audience will find useful. These prompted us to revisit the website and introduce new and interactive features including online calculators and quizzes," related Jones.

The website's new offerings include a Savings Builder calculator where users only need to type in their age and how much they are saving each month. This will then generate a report on the size of their savings per where the user reaches age 40, 50 and 60, compared with computed interest.

"Savings Builder was designed to show people the magic of compound interest. They may think P1,000 set aside monthly won't be worth much in 10 or 20 years. But it's actually a good sum. If you invest P1,000 each month at age 20, and keep that saving discipline for 20 years, your total savings will be P480,000. Assuming monthly compounding at 9 per cent per annum, that fund will be worth nearly P970,000," Jones explained.

"If you continued to set aside P1,000 for another 10 years, when you're 50, that will be around P1.6 million, and 10 more years of saving the same amount monthly will give you close to P4.7 million—quite a good nest egg," added Jones.

Other online calculators featured in the site help visitors compare how their debt ratio and check out of a Payless transaction. "The feature is useful to check how much of your income goes toward covering debt, while the latter is for Citi cardholders who are considering a big-ticket purchase and would like to see the monthly payment depending on their payment terms—from 3 to 24 months," said Jones.

Visitors may also find it handy to take the quiz on "Do you need a credit card?" and consult a checklist on "How prepared are you?" for life's emergencies. The site also features an interactive Citi credit card statement of account, to help clients understand it better.

For Credit Wisely, annexed to the Citibank Philippines' website, is a localized version of a website in the same name developed by Citi in New York and is the first to be rolled out outside the United States.

## Why confidence in financial institutions help ...

From page B2/1

found during the fraud and forensic audit of the bank. There was a conspicuous failure in the fiduciary responsibilities of the officers, the internal control system, which were supposed to provide check and balances, were all overridden and disregarded.

I hope that in reading about this case, all students and practitioners of good corporate governance can better understand why corporate governance principles are important, why fiduciary trust and confidence in financial institutions help the capital markets and the economy, and how ineffective laws can be offset by the weaknesses of such corporate governance principles.

(The author is the editor of "The Power to Govern" and the managing partner and CEO of accounting, tax and business advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo.)

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Argentina Meat Loaf Soft Tortillas

PARTY Pleaser

INGREDIENTS
12 small-sized flour tortillas
2 cups grated cheese
1 can Argentina Meat Loaf 280g, diced
1 cup diced tomatoes
1/4 cup chopped parsley or cilantro

PROCEDURES
1. Lay six tortillas on a flat surface or chopping board. Divide cheese over tortillas.
2. Add Argentina Meat Loaf, tomatoes and parsley on layers. Place one tortilla, forming a sandwich.
3. Heat a heavy bottom fry pan, cook at medium heat, browning both sides until cheese melts.
4. Serve on a platter and cut into wedges. Serve with sour cream.

Makes 12 Servings

"PAPEROLLS at the Airport: 'Na bring ang mais,' 'Na Piet Bolpatu bolow, 'Lolabag Libiro,' by Alfredo Roquillo

# Visual and rock music artists compose the 'Filipino'

ART AND ROCK MUSIC ARE combined in "Looking for Juan: A Celebration of What It Means to Be Filipino in Art and Rock & Roll," which opens Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m., at Ayala Museum.

TODAY, C2

"HELLO HELLO," by Winston Jarnaiza

"B.A.R.," by Mark Jarnaiza

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# Awestruck at Kathmandu

THE PRIDE I LIKE BEST SPEAKS the kind of work I do is that over the years I have built an international network of like-minded people who enjoy taking friends on insider tours of the places where they live or work.

So the moment I had free time on a recent mission to Nepal, I called a dear friend, Rohit Singhvi, a business-trained architect and the Nepal Program director for the New York-based Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust.

He immediately proposed that I meet him at his office so we could dive into adventures with several Durbar Square in Patan, one of three World Heritage-inscribed durbar (royal) squares in Kathmandu.

What Rohit did not tell me was his office was on Durbar Square itself, in a marvelous four-floor traditional Newari building that he restored.

From his roof terrace, my bird's-eye view of Durbar Square expanded past the royal palace and temples below, taking in a generous swath of cityscape stretching all the way to the mountain range encircling Kathmandu's valley—an unforgettable view.

Difficult as it was for me to leave that scene, we nevertheless went downstairs to walk the square and negotiate the amazing dance of tuktuks, congested lanes around it where pedestrian, handcart, bicycle and motorcycle safely compete for space.

It began to rain, harder and harder, but we walked anyway.

Looking dark and mysterious in the early-evening rain, rows of ancient four-story brick brigades frame both sides of the tangled lanes. The attached houses are completely shielded from public view, except at seven level-through solid wood doors, and ventilated on the upper floors by heavily carved wooden windows cushioned with panes of delicate wooden filigree instead of the usual glass to provide further privacy for occupants.

Rows of interlocking four-story attached dwellings surprisingly opened up into a series of interconnecting open-air private courtyards accessed by a network of low, narrow unroofed passages that allow residents to cross from one end of the neighborhood to the other without setting foot on any public street, something I would have never known if I was not with a Patan resident on that wet evening.

**PRIDE OF PLACE**

*Augusto F. Villalon*

## Outdoor space

Away from street hustle and bustle, we cruised from one quiet courtyard to another, finally arriving at a small, open outdoor space in front of the Mani Ban stone brick façade of Sewa Chin, a traditional Newari house, originally built in the 1700s during the Malla Dynasty now beautifully preserved by Rohit Pandikar.

Today the house is a charming bed-and-breakfast facility that includes massive bedrooms, fortified with hand-loomed woolen rugs and carpets, and traditional handmade Newari furniture.

A world removed from the constant human activity of the street, Sewa Chin has its own small private courtyard on the ground floor, which adjoins reception and function rooms that open out to a meditatively still interior courtyard lush with the last flowers of late summer.

The Patan Tourism Development Organization and the National Federation of Unesco Associations in Japan assisted the restoration of Mani Ban Sewa.

The Hyamees family is renovating their residence to a comfortable

**IN KEEPING** with the historic character of Durbar Square, this shop front is made of magnificently carved doors cut into traditional Newari stonework.

**ROYAL PALACES, temples, and memorials are living testaments to Kathmandu's Patan Durbar Square where the outdoor living room for the Patan community and today a place for tourists as well.**

right-room guest accommodation, which has proven itself successful enough that it is now encouraging neighboring families to convert their homes into similar facilities.

After all, where else can a tourist have an experience as authentically Newari as living a few blocks off Patan Durbar Square, enjoying family hospitality in a historic house furnished in the traditional manner while living the traditional life?

Not far from Sewa Chin, the same organizations assisted another family in converting their heritage property into an authentic Newari restaurant and boutique where we had a long dinner in a cozy attempt to sit out the rain.

Locals filled the restaurant, staying in side long cups of after-dinner tea. Everyone was waiting for the rain to end.

The arch of Patan lasts led us to another small square, and on this one was Rohit's own house, entered through a plain door framed with intricately carved wood.

## Newari house

Right after entering a Newari house, street noises fall away and calm takes over. Passing an entire through its low door provides a quieting, ceremonial transition into the quiet of a family home.

A typical Newari city house is usually a four-story rectangular brick structure built right at the edge of a narrow lane that opens up in the rear to a courtyard, in the private or communal.

A steep ladder like stair connects the sleeping quarters in the lower two floors to the living quarters on the third floor and finally to the cooking and service areas on the top floor. The ground floor, usually shed, opens out to the private courtyard.

A row of wooden columns lines the center of the rectangular space on all floors. Running parallel to the long side of the rectangle, the row of wooden columns prevents the floor above from sagging.

Low ceilings of exposed structural timber are typical. Since floor-to-ceiling height is usually only about two meters, people must bend to enter rooms through low doors, so one must reverentially "bow when entering a room" as Newaris believe.

In the Rohit Pandikar home, wooden furniture is simply constructed in the traditional manner. Pieces are kept to a minimum, limited to low beds for sleeping or lounging, and side tables are low as well.

Most of the family living is done on the floor of polished antique wood, covered with typical Newari carpets, either of modest cotton (traditional in Nepal) or specially handwoven wool carpets in contemporary designs.

What suits this house apart is the skillful fusion of traditional architecture with the modern. Exquisitely carved antique woodwork is set against simple modern surroundings. The wooden columns running the center length of rooms are perfectly complementing to the high detail of their carving and level of craftsmanship.

An contemporist brownstone addition and modern technology to the top floor kitchen a comfort modern conveniences in an ancient structure.

Rohit's own private guest suite consists of highly polished hand-tooled wood.

Deep-blue tiles handmade by Newari craftsmen complete the setting. And from its small roof deck, the rooftop view over Patan is extraordinary.

Extraordinary is how to describe Rohit Singhvi's update of traditional architecture with contemporary technology, expressing a contemporary Kathmandu lifestyle that might appear strongly rooted in the past but in reality looks forward to moving in the direction of how heritage is really applicable to our 21st century lifestyles anywhere around the globe.

*For information on Sewa Chin Shrestha House, e-mail hyamee@gmail.com or visit www.sewachin.com*

*E-mail the author at pride.pham@gmail.com*

# Visual and rock . . .

**"PINOY Comix," by Manny Gurbay**

From page C1

Participating artist artist are Pet Bolipata, Elmer Borlongan, Alfredo Esquillo, Kasse Flores, Manny Garibay, Wilmer Jamolino and Mark Justiniani.

They interact with seven rock acts: Dong ating Cynthia Alexander, Joey Ayala, Noel Cabangon, Lourd Decyalliot and Up Dharma Down.

Together they will produce 54 original paintings and rock songs all on the theme "What it Means to Be Filipino."

"Looking for Juan" is produced by Cirkoh art group in partnership with Ambient Media and Homemark Inc.

Call 9001151.

**"KAPALUNGAN," by Justiniani**

**"ANG DAHIL, Sa 'Yo y Mahalaga," by Karen Flores**

# Edsa Shrine holds concert for Mary

THE EDSA SHRINE COMMUNITY CHOIRS "Isang Wika, Isang Boses" in the Philamlife Auditorium at United Nations Avenue Ext. 23, 7:30 p.m.

The concert features the Manila Symphony Orchestra under professor Arturo Molina, with guest artists Camille Lopez Molina, soprano, and Abbo Madrid, tenor.

The concert includes compositions for voice and orchestra, among them Francisco Santiago's "Ave Maria" and "Imak Dalita"; Feliciano Buenaventura's "Ave Maria" and "Pantayo Caprice"; Pedro Calalang's "Ave Maria," Arsenio J. Molina's "Hantugtuk," Juan de Monteclaro's "Cunto Pastorico de Maria Anna," Nicanor Abelardo's "Munya ng Pasig," and classic from the zarzuela "Walang Sugat" by Severino Reyes and the opera "Noli Me Tangere" by Felipe Padilla de Leon Sr.

Tickets will not be sold for this concert but organizers welcome donations. The concert will be recorded live and donors and benefactors will be given CDs of the concert. Proceeds from donations will be used for projects of religious institutions dedicated to Mary.

# Borlongan and Bolipata at CCP

ARTISTS COUPLE PAT C. BOLIPATA AND Elmer M. Borlongan hold the joint exhibition "Blue Hour" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Oct. 23 to Nov. 22.

In French literature, "blue hour" describes time of heightened emotion. It is in this context that Bolipata and Borlongan use their creative energies in depicting subjects of human interest in various everyday situations, real or imagined.

Their subjects, clothed or disrobed, are caught up in the present, in the moment of whatever it is they are doing, reminded of a past in a future that lies ahead. They are simply in the moment, relishing and basking in the beauty of time making by.

These images will remind the viewer that being fully present in the moment, no matter the circumstance, is what life is all about.

The exhibit will run at the CCP Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo (Small Gallery) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The exhibit is brought to you in part by U/it Gallery and Canvas. Call 9001152.

**"HARVESTING on Blue Hour Adagio," by Pet Bolipata**

# Visual Arts

## Garcellano, Ching at Blanc

Lyra Maeg Garcellano and Yasmin Sison-Ching present "In-Between Days" Oct. 19 @ Blanc, 29 Cocoa Tree st. 1/F R.V. de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. "In Between Days" straddles the issue between stasis and loss. It brings us on a journey into memory where old days are worn out and pretty colors are half-eaten and crumpled, remnants of our careless youth, temporarily in our age. Call 7529533 or 0905-8019496.

**"WAYNE Wears Pretty Baby" 2.by Yasmin Sison Ching**

## Cabrera, Garcia at Lundayan

Lundayan Art Gallery (55-B Kamuning Road, UCI) presents "Mano-Habong," by Cori Cabrera and Butch Garcia until Oct. 22. The artists delve deeply into the dynamics and conventions of socially accepted norms by exploring the stereotypical. Garcia's new works re-interpret the hand-kissed women in history while Cabrera portrays the "deviant" in his works. Call 0915-1196441.

## Abstracts at DLSU

With works from the 1NN and Romeo Fernandez and the La Salle University Art Gallery collections, the exhibition "Abstract Art" examines Philippine abstract art from the 1960s-1980s through the works of some of the original members of the Non-Realists group such as B.R. Ocampo, Vicente Manansala, Cesar Legaspi and Romeo Tabuena, as well as other members like Manuel Rodriguez Sr., Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Fernando Zobel and Antonio Luz. Works of other abstract artists like Jose Joya, Ang Kiukok, Mauro Malang, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, Rolando Dudas, Rodolfo Samonte, Nestor Vinluan, Lee Llamzon, Paul Isidro, Justin Smyrle and Gil Reyes are also featured in the exhibit. GLSL Museum at Gokongwei Building, B.Gil Manila. Call 5244511 loc. 368 or visit http://filipinaarts.dlsu.edu.ph.

## Exotique at Silvertoes

Silvertoes Gallery Group opens its second gallery, SLab (Silvertoes Lab), with artist Patricia Lustrado's solo exhibit "Sculpt to the Music, Viva Mime," until Nov. 22. Tantalizing paintings and sculptures are a commentary on J.S. Bach's "The Well-Tempered Clavier," a person-aversion. There are pieces made of leather and lace, a violin with a chilled anatomic heart made of ceramic and bird shapes—notes in music in silence. We shaped sensations of fluid silhouettes filled with feathers on fine-count-glass of color and technique in the tradition of the Dutch masters. Curiosity-holds an artist talk and film screening on Nov. 10, 3-5 p.m. SLab is at 2329 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 8150044 or 0905-2604873.

# Nicholas Sparks' midlife romance novel reaches screen

SOMETIMES WRITERS DESERVE MOVIES made from their books. Just Nicholas Sparks, best-selling author of "Nights in Rodanthe," said of the movie version, starring Diane Lane and Richard Gere, "I thought Joe Blow was beautiful. I loved it. When I walked out of the theater the first time I saw it, it reminded me of 'Casablanca.'"

Sparks, who owns the memorable "The Notebook," "Message in a Bottle" and "A Walk to Remember"—the latter two produced for the screen by Denise di Novi—feels that "Nights in Rodanthe" is a thematic return to his origins as a storyteller.

"It's one of the most intimately romantic novels I've ever done," said Sparks. "It has a reason, an isolated locale, and a wounded couple who come together and heal each other, and it involves a whole range of human emotion: happiness, sadness, anger, frustration, passion, impatience and patience."

Sparks and di Novi take note of the fundamental misinformation in all the novel to the big screen.

"Denise understands what I am trying to accomplish, what the emotional journeys of the characters are, and so I am very comfortable leaving it in her hands," Sparks said.

About her adaptation, di Novi said, "It always has to be true to the essence of the book. The great thing about Nick is that he's a collaborator. He's very protective about it. He understands that you do have to change things in order to make it a movie. It's very pivotal for some authors."

Sparks and di Novi also tackled the challenge of adapting an epistolary novel.

"Using letters in [Rodanthe], the epistolary form, is particularly effective if you're doing a third-person novel, which 'Nights in Rodanthe' was," said Sparks. "It was really an equal, weighted story between these two wounded people going through this journey together... So, as you're working through this, you don't feel a limited person always connected. Because you're kind of splitting as you're reading. It's very emotional. It's art. Then you throw this letter in and it's a romance's voice, and you realize, on an intuitive level, that everything you were thinking that this character would be like, boom, goes out in his words and it's exactly what I imagined. It's hard to do that same thing in film because the letters I can refer to in my novel are three pages long. You can't film that for three minutes."

"I think letters are magical. You can have all the e-mail in the world, I'll still write a letter."

"I love Nick's books so much," di Novi said. "They speak to me as a woman and in my personal life as much as they do as a film producer... They're always about healing and love, how important love is, how important family is, how important children are... The relationships between parents and children in the book are so important, and I think it's why the books resonate so much."

Sparks has always talked about his writers' connection to Greek tragedy. "When you see Nights in Rodanthe, you see the connection, or if you read one of my books, you see it," he said. "You go through all of

ROMEO Gere plays Dr. Paul Flanner and Diane Lane is Adrienne Willis in "Rodanthe."

the emotions of life. It's life in a microcosm. That's what the plays of Sophocles were. They would journey through all of the emotions of life. That is the basis of them... Everything that you see in this film—I'll tell you what, anyone hit that place every time. People are isolated all the time. That's what happened. People fall in love in their forties. People also fall in love quickly. All of those things are very real.

"Nights in Rodanthe" opens across the Philippines on Oct. 25.

A ROMANTIC drama, "Nights in Rodanthe" is a portrait of [illegible] romance. "People fall in love in their 40s," says novelist Sparks.

## *Young author of 'Brisingr,' 'Eragon'*

SEE "DRAGON OBSESSION" IN BIRES

Christopher Paolini so wrote "Eragon," a novel about a young farm boy and his brilliant blue dragon, when the author was just 15.

Born on Nov. 17, 1983, Christopher was home-schooled for most of his life. After graduating from high school, he wrote "Eragon," which was self-published by the Paolini family. Christopher promoted the book by going to over 135 bookstores, schools and library, giving talks while dressed in medieval attire. Carl Hiaasen, an American journalist, came across "Eragon" through the region. Hiaasen enjoyed the book and recommended it to his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, which published "Eragon" and the three succeeding books. They became the "Inheritance Cycle."

In 2005, 23-year-old Christopher became a New York Times best-selling author with the release of "Eldest," the sequel to Eragon. The third and latest book in the "Cycle," "Brisingr" has just been released.

A fourth and untitled book will complete the "Inheritance Cycle."

"Brisingr" and the "Inheritance Cycle" series is available at Powerbooks.

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

BALLET Philippines corps of dancers perform Alvin Ailey's "Night Creatures," as revamped by Elizabeth Reese Osbirak.

# High expectations for 'New Beginnings'

Audience loved the Ballet Philippines gala. They could relate to the balletic foundation of the dance style

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

LIKE THE AFTERmath of the Edsa Revolution, Ballet Philippines' "New Beginnings" was characterized by optimism.

There was hope in the new leadership of ballerinas-dancer Wisa Lim-Ui and twin-act dancer Alan Hawkins, and the induction of young, energetic blood in BP's board. Nor since ages has there been excitement stirred over BP's opening.

The gala night was glamorous as Manila's crème de la crème and their designers converged on the Cultural Center of the Philippines' lobby. The program started with long speeches that reeked nostalgic about BP's glorious history and its aspiration to soar to new heights.

Many years ago, the opening number looked more a mell-or-learned warm-up for the show. With the new BP even the most jaded dance watcher would be awed not only by the impeccably crisp technique and muscle memory but also because the dancers seemed to have a collision look—small, lithe and long-limbed. Even the amateurs such as Cecilia Ordinario and Georgette Sandoval, the most senior of the group, looked fragile with thin hands.

The first unions of Alvin Ailey's "Night Creatures" was restaged by Elizabeth Reese Osbirak. The puzzle dress was originally choreographed by Hanya Holm, who now restaged Ailey's classics. At first it was breathtaking to watch, but as the dance progressed, it felt jarring on seeing small-boned Filipinos do black dancing.

Set to Duke Ellington's sonatas, this jazz ballet piece is composed of several sections of various choreographic tones, ranging from the sassy black dancing, a bit of Broadway, and the exception, a section on speedy ballet footwork.

When you've seen Alvin Ailey's dancers or black dancers in general, their bones are bigger, the torso go on forever, and their bodies are very curvaceous. When they stand on their hips and torso, there's a certain roundness, softness and more abandon.

BP's dancing lacked the black soul and sass and the Broadway pizzazz that BP should've had, and when they were doing Ailey's style in full throttle, allure without lots of polish. Watching this

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PATRONS OF BALLET Jaime Zobel de Ayala, BP honorary chair Elizabeth Reese and BP benefactress Imelda G. Cojuangco

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

FUSAO BARDY BY TIL LUNCH

DICK TRACY

LOVEHONTS BY ELIZABETH CHOINSKI

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PAPPAJANNI

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

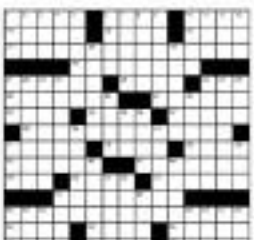
FULDOK BY MARK COLL

RIKKI MACHINE BY MARK KERSEN

BEEK BY DANIEL SHELTON

## DAILY CROSSWORD

By Richard T. Wilkinson
Clearwater, FL



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ACROSS
1 Thanksgiving meal
6 Bumbled after a mistake
11 Climbing vine
14 Destructive force
15 Lack of esteem
16 Rooftop ridge
17 Heading for trouble
18 Fashioning tightrope
19 Caramel-like candy
20 Depth of Rome
21 Bee fan, maybe
22 Lacy dessert
24 Worry about
25 Wrinkle remover
26 Ship's mast
27 Pitcher's hold
28 Warm-and-fuzzy
29 Earrings
32 Dubbin holder
35 Travelers' club
36 Ancient Greek "Well, Dad!" cries
37 Cotton-drawer
38 Hedges and bushes
39 Bridgelike
40 Of the kidneys
41 Very-moral
42 Dishcloths
43 Cucumber
44 "___ Rule"
46 Body lotions
47 Tax-time
48 Choose by vote

DOWN
1 U.S. defense group
2 Bundle of the NFL
3 Classic Holiday
4 Wrong notes
5 Feeding accessories
6 Rich cocktail
7 Bridge-crossing
8 Water-treatment
9 Gambling
10 Magnetic
11 Tin-eared
12 Hoops or Rebus
13 Unhappy
21 Schools of medicine
23 Bird quickly
24 Paper-making
25 Tyke's plaything
26 Type of games
28 Washington
29 Thoroughbred
30 Guess, suppose
31 Catch-as-catch-
32 Loose with dry
33 Dead heat
34 London's Wall
35 Consumed
36 Ten-dollar
37 Cotton-
38 Wheelbarrow
39 Tennis-
41 Bowl-shaped
42 Bowl, as dish
43 Roman bath
44 Lackadaisical
45 Tart or Sawyer
46 Bonjour follow-

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good week for you to reach before the for hasty decisions and fantastical schemes. Be careful not to over-extend yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is an excellent day for getting together with family members, relatives and close colleagues. Avoid business or monetary plans for the time being.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Business and financial matters are favorable. Your communication skills are heightened, and long-lasting. You could soon be given a chance at showing your stuff.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might want to be alone in the world and free from the thoughts and feelings of others. Your sensitivity is heightened, but you need a little solitude. You'll be able to get a lot done if you can withdraw for a while.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) This is a good week for you to launch anything or dig for treasure, you have the energy and perseverance to get results. You might come up with some solutions to problems that you've been stuck on for a while.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Make sure to keep your feelings under control. You may be overly sensitive to criticism this week. Don't let others' opinions of you affect your self-esteem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Disagreements with bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs are likely to occur this today. You might be thinking out of the box. However, they may not appreciate your unbridled, different and unconventional ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Shadow work is a powerful reading well on with today. Your intuition and psychic abilities are heightened. Trance work and meditation are also helpful to you. Be careful with your finances, philosophy and relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're in the mood for love and sexual pleasure. Your self-confidence is high, and you're ready to take on the world. Be careful not to overdo it, however, as you may be prone to accidents.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You have a strong desire to be alone in your own world. Don't let others' opinions of you affect your self-esteem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You're in the perfect day to launch anything or dig for treasure, you have the energy and perseverance to get results. You might come up with some solutions to problems that you've been stuck on for a while.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're in the perfect day to launch anything or dig for treasure, you have the energy and perseverance to get results. You might come up with some solutions to problems that you've been stuck on for a while.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | | 6 | | 9 | 4 | | 3 |
| | 9 | | | 4 | 8 | | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 1 | | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| | 4 | | | 9 | | | 5 | |
| 6 | | | | 5 | | | 2 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 1 | 3 | | 2 | 8 | | | 6 | |
| 8 | | 2 | 7 | | 5 | | 4 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★

### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.conceptis.com

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 |

# High expectations . . .

from page B3

company do Alley's work was like hearing a Filipino speak with a well-enunciated English diction.

### Sorrow

Lucas's "The Hurt We Embrace," as the title implied, was about sorrow in a painful relationship.

The structure seemed all too familiar. A man and a woman sat on their respective chairs under intense spotlights. They started moving to silence until Jun Sy Kaycoando's music started playing. The dance eventually focused more on the emotions of the woman rather than the man.

The dynamics of their relationship seemed very ambiguous and in the end it looked more like bullies pestering where the dancers showed off his journey, only close to modern dance idiom. Predictably the duet went back in the beginning structure and ended in silence.

The piece was intensely performed by Ordinario and Bing Gamigan, who will soon join the Cloud Gate Dance Theater in Taiwan. Still, the choreography could not articulate the complexities of the relationship between two people and didn't really show the company's finest dancers in their full glory.

PRESIDENTIAL daughter Loi Arroyo

DP GALA tight organizer Sofia Zobel-Ricalde

### All-male cast

Lucas's "Mga Awit" was more interesting. The series of Filipino environmental songs was interpreted by an all-male cast.

The work was enhanced by Gino Gonzales' panels of crumbled adobe that have ominous message and Virgilio Ciney's warm lighting of amber tones, with subtle nuances of blue. The choreography was evocative of the romantic lyrics without being literal.

But when two guys get physical in a love song, it could easily be homoerotic work. Only, this one lacked conviction.

The style was free, with a lot of off-center movements and floor work. Yet with body deportment that tended to be formal and linear as in ballet, and the lack of emotional exertion in the dancers, one couldn't help but feel that dance was about sexual expression.

The program ended on wordwoven notes with Hinchliss's "Thresholds II," a series of dance movements showing off the powerful classical technique suffused with the freedom of modern dance. The standout was Sanchez with her ruffle farfa embracing the space.

The audience loved the show. They could relate to the ballistic foundations of the dance style. It was refreshing to see an older piece which Manila won't get to see until after another 20 years.

With such a title as "New Beginnings," expectations were as high as the grande jetés of young designers. But I should have learned by pache just week.

BALLET Philippines does Alvin Ailey in full throttle.

# Maria Callas and 'Master Class'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

A PLAY NOT TO BE missed this weekend (Oct. 25-26) is the Philippine Opera Company revival of the Terrence McNally play "Master Class," which was inspired by a series of master classes conducted by the legendary diva Maria Callas at the Juilliard School of Music in New York in 1971 and 1972.

Portraying Callas is Elsa Arroyo Ortega. Playing the students in her master class are Jack Solad as Anthony Candolino, Florence Aguilar as Sophie de Palma, Dweda Barrera as Sharon Graham, Gaspar Javier as the pianist Manny, and Michael Williams in a cameo role as the stage manager.

In that moving play the diva recalls her triumphs as well as her frustrations in between the bel canto arias interrupted with lies.

### Obsession

Ms Callas obsession started when I first heard the grand prize winner of the Mario Callas International Voice Competition, Konstantin Ilieu Nelly Miricioiu. Music critics from USA, Scotland, England and Australia compared her to Maria Callas.

When La Miricioiu performed for Imelda Marcos in Malacañang in the early '80s, the former First Lady was so impressed that she told the Romanian diva: "You sisters well like Callas, but I do believe your voice is better than Maria Callas."

Soprano Elisa Lacsamana (sister of Senate Pimpet) and the late Callas sing "La Sonnambula" at La Scala di Milan in 1955 when she was younger.

CHERIE Gil plays Callas.

"There was no doubt that she was a very good performer. Personally, I find the voice of Tebaldi is superior to Callas, but Callas was really the great actress with the superb personality."

## 'She was one artist who stood out because she took nothing for granted'

The late soprano Lilia Reyes got a compelling of the Callas temper when she saw Callas sing "Norma" in the mid-'50s during the inauguration of Teatro del Opera in Rome. The audience response to the signature aria, "Casta diva," was not so warm, and Callas walked out even if the president of Italy was in the audience.

"She was one artist who stood out because she took nothing for granted. She performed only after a thorough study of a certain role matched with the right vocal technique," said Reyes.

### Magnetic

The late Baritenor Romero referred to Callas as the "fountain of the voice, but a good roaster. He saw Callas sing the lead roles in "Lucia di Lammermoor," "La Traviata" and " La Boheme," among others. "When she appeared on stage, I just froze. She was that magnetic. Vocally, Tebaldi is better but she doesn't have the charisma of Callas."

When Callas died alone in a Paris apartment at age 53 after a tempestuous love affair with Aristotle Onassis (who eventually married Jackie Kennedy), the opera world watched the end of a Golden Age of opera.

Terrence McNally's play was first produced by the Philadelphia Theater Company in March 1995. It opened at the Golden Theater in New York City to favorable of the same year.

"MASTER Class" is a fictional drama about Maria Callas.

For those who missed those to three decades of Maria Callas, I recommend watching "Master Class," directed by Michael Williams. The last weekend run at RCBC Theater is Dec. 23-24.

*For tickets, please call Philippine Opera Company at 8924766 and TicketWorld at 8919999 or visit www.philippineoperacompany.com*

# Explosive performance by Taiwan's Cloud Gate

SEDUCTIVE in moves and ensembles

By Elba Kriselda B. Bacatan
Contributor

PERFORMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE recent Ramon Magsaysay awards for Asia, "Moon Water" by Cloud Gate Dance of Taiwan was an exceptional and must see production. The performance was supported by the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Kinda Group of Companies.

The 33-year-old company is named after the oldest house dance in China. Choreographer Lin Hwai-min said he was inspired by Tai Chi ideals ("Energy flows in water, while the spirit drives us the water") and a Buddhist proverb ("Wisdom is a mirror and mirror-like wisdom feels illusory").

But all of this seemed alien to his concrete that night. This was because it was an intense 70-minute performance—without intermission!

It was a combination of dramatic and intense lighting, Feminine cellist Hitecha Matsky's dark and heavy recording of the Bach cello suites, orchestral movements in solos, duets and ensembles, and the hypnotic dancers' reflection on the mirrors above and behind them and on the inch-deep water on their feet.

Then there was the sheer audacity of having to place a tilted mini-water dam covering the theater stage. It's explained it made the water flow and recycle on its own). The water behind creates images through the sliding and splashing of 19 dancers.

Various forms and shapes were also made through ballet, modern dance, martial arts and Chinese dancers movements that were combined with Tai Chi and meditation (there was a lot of breathing).

With eyes constantly downcast, men and women in leftover white trousers (the male dancers were bare-chested, while the female wore skin-tone bottoms) performed entrancing concepts simultaneously. They displayed extremely control in executing slow movements one time and then explode in sudden shrieks and jumps the next.

There was no distinct story, except at one point when two couples seemed to be in a love/hate relationship. Clenched fists, stiff arms and sharp leg jabs kept shooting up to reveal self-consciously bending torsos and spitting, fluid arms.

Toward the end, the last dancer's leg that slowly dragged off from view coupled with lights fading as a similar pace seemed a fantasy aspect that earned the company four curtain calls.

Wen Ching-ding, one of the senior dancers (15 years with the company), said the creation of the piece involved a lot of improvisation from the dancers who developed the movements with Lin. They did not even hear the music until they were more than halfway through the choreography.

"He just moved our bodies and then he (Lin) would decide or add something to it," Wen said. "It was very interesting to do because if we heard the music earlier then our movement would be limited to that."

Lin was honored with a Magsaysay Award for Creative Communication Arts in 1999 "for exalting theatrical arts in Taiwan with modern dance that is at once eloquently universal yet authentically Chinese."

Dancer and choreographer Lin said she recognized influences of Martha Graham's signature use of the thighs (Lin studied in the Martha Graham School in New York). "But Lin managed to develop all new and global vocabulary of movements that changed people's perception of dance—that it's not just pirouettes anymore."

The Taiwan's Cloud Gate productions is "Wanderer of the Flowers," which has been launched to Taiwan and will soon be toured abroad.

Visit www.cloudgate.org.tw

# UP Mobile Theater—back on the road

By Bibin Cadiz

## Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's fabled troupe gets a new lease on life as Lakbay Dulaang UP

SCENES from Lakbay Dulaang UP's revisitation of Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's "Lakan ng Basketbol" (left) and "Wanted: Isang Taguiwan," both directed by Dexter Santos

CAN YOU PICTURE THIS? Henri Amon (the late master, later) onstage, acting in a play. The smart, lovely UP colegiala already exuding the star quality that will make her the Philippines' sweetheart when she marries the maestro. In the wings, handling the curtains, an intense young student named Noe Mirasol. His job—to raise and bring down the curtain on Amon's play.

Say a product of one's imagination, but an actual occurrence in the long ago UP Mobile Theater, which had Amon and Mirasol as cartoon.

"Noe himself reminded me about it when we did a radio interview with him years," recalled Amon this. "He said, Bernie, you might not remember this, but I was your curtain raiser!"

"Even then," Amon added with a giggle, "I think Noe knew he wouldn't be a leading man because of his high-pitched voice."

The occasion for her reminiscing was the recent launch of the revived UP Mobile Theater, now called Lakbay Dulaang UP, at the Cinema-Theater in UP's Bahay Hall.

Amon, in her opening remarks, recalled how young students like her had the priceless opportunity to tour the country's towns and barrios courtesy of the travelling theatrical company that UP professor and playwright Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero had founded in 1962, on an initial monthly grant of P500.

### Hardships

Guerrero's aim was "to bring theater closer to the people." To this end, the mobile theater he led, and the student actors he harnessed, were prepared to endure the hardships of journeying to the country's far reaches to bring plays "about Filipinos and ours, situations and characters" to ordinary folk.

This was the 1960s, when roads or towns outside of Manila were still rugged or non-existent, when amenities were few and comfort a premium to crave.

In an article he wrote for the May 1964 UP Alumni Yearbook, Guerrero laid out the template for his project:

"I felt that the Mobile Theater, to be successful, must follow the pattern of the dossier during the Middle Ages, when plays were staged in the plazas or in street corners, not only concessions to modernity that are of value to plazas, but in fact but preferable there. So are we said, only the barest furniture, but with costumes and make-up. Backdrops is on the plays and on the acting."

In terms of the plays presented, "the standard or sentimental dramas are touched upon... I feel that people in the provinces have a hard enough time, so our aim is to make them laugh and cry but with a message in every play. Nothing of this or for art's sake."

For 19 years, the UP Mobile Theater regularly toured Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, eventually logging some 2,300 performances.

Adele Faso Amon-Ilos and Mirasol, its alumni include Behn Cervantes, Jesus Jacinto Jr., Jaime Gamboa, Josefa Lapeña-Bonifacio and Tony Mabesa (the founding artistic director of Dulaang UP).

Guerrero was declared a National Artist for Theater in 1997.

### Generous funding

After Guerrero's demise, for lack of funds and leadership, the UP Mobile Theater was discontinued—until this year, when an alumnus of the troupe, on the occasion of UP's centennial celebrations, thought of reviving it.

Ignacio Gimenez, who studied traveling to-at-by-in Iloilo in Mindanao during his UP theater days, became a successful entrepreneur later in life. Now the owner of the Buy and Sell Publishing group of companies, Gimenez proposed the idea of resurrecting the travelling troupe, with him funding it. Dulaang UP enthusiastically agreed.

"It's just my way of giving back to UP and to the country," said Gimenez in his remarks at the launching.

His generous sponsorship allows the new Lakbay Dulaang UP to bring on tour a troupe of 12 students, plus artistic staff, portable scenery, and resources for transport, food and accommodations. The repertory will consist of Guerrero's classic plays as well as works by other playwrights.

### Renewed awareness

"It is the intention of Lakbay DUP to bring renewed awareness of Guerrero and his works and other Filipino playwrights as well," said Dexter Santos, who directed Lakbay Dulaang UP's inaugural offerings—two Guerrero staples, "Lakan ng Basketbol" and "Wanted: Isang Taguiwan," and a short movement interlude based on Rene Villanueva's children's story "Kumat ng Sardi."

"I wanted to do "Inspirado" because it is a signature work—de Ma. Guerrero ang," said Santos. "And when I read "Lakan," I knew it was something we could contemporize, since it tackles the Ateneo-versus-La Salle basketball rivalry. It was a material we could experiment with, and the students of today could relate to."

But while "Lakan" was updated (with current basketball heroes like Ateneo's Chris Tiu mentioned in the text), "Taguiwan" was "presented as a 1950s-style comedy of manners (à la Impromptu and DZH Pictures). I wanted the old to go down memory lane, while also engaging the young to the period and its values," explained Santos.

"In both plays, the aim is definitely to entertain but with a sense of responsibility. Laughs but think, experience but question."

Originally to be English, the plays were performed in Filipino using Jose Villa Panganiban's translation. Guerrero himself used this translation for the very first performance of UP Mobile Theater on Dec. 11, 1962, in "the old wall-fi labor-ers' area, which was dere-pple and had a hundred smells," as he recalled it.

"Those plays were performed that day: 'Ang Mga Bubot ay Babangabanga,' "Salarin" next, yes, "Inalagaan Isang Taguiwan."

"Mercading is in Filipino still although it is much a culture audience, especially in the provinces," said Santos.

"I really hope that we can tour as many schools as possible or even up different community theater groups in Luzon. Also, then through the entertainment we bring them, a renewed interest in the theater arts will spring from their experience."

*Lakbay Dulaang UP's touring schedule (tentative for now) includes appearances in Bicol and Baguio this November, tours of Mindanao and Visayas in January, then performances in February 2010 for the Arts Festival Month. For inquiries, call 4226000 loc. 3222, 9065508769/9189455/56703.*

*E-mail the author: gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gbh-cadiz.com*

## Top journalists grace UST national campus press fellowship

FORMER NEW YORK TIMES correspondent and press ombudsman Alice Colón Hilsenbeck will give the keynote speech at Gaddiyan 2009: The 16th UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship when it opens on Oct. 30 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

Organized by the Varsitarian, the 81-year old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, Gaddiyan gathers 250 campus journalists from all over the country participating in seminars on news, features, sports, cartooning, campus press management, Catholic press realities and other concerns. They will also dwell and pass a Philippine Campus Press Code of Ethics.

Lecturers include Inquirer columnists Gemma de Quiros and John Nery; sports columnist Quirino Simon; Yengo and Pancrazio's Alvarez Castroon, GMA's Sandra Aguinaldo, Inquirer cartoonist Nonoy Oliveros, photographers Romeo Gacad and reporter Yuri Cornelio.

Cox Cecilio Bilbao of MBC CBN will give an inspirational message on Oct. 22. The closing fellowship dinner will feature the bands Urban Dub and Habi. It will be capped by fireworks.

## *'Fiesta!' features Spanish voice and guitar concert*

INSTITUTO CERVANTES presents "España: Voz y Guitarra," a musique featuring soprano Pilar Mural and guitarist Nicola Jappelli, on Oct. 22, 7 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza. The concert is part of "Fiesta!" the Spanish cultural festival.

"Voz y Guitarra (Voice & Guitar)" highlights the best of 19th-20th century Spanish repertoires for voice and guitar. It features pieces by Conde de Guimara, F. Tos, J. Rodrigo, M. De Falla, and Federico Garcia Lorca.

Mural is a renowned performer of zarzuela, a genre of Spanish lyrical theater that combines singing and spoken dialogue. She has performed in Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Portugal, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

Jappelli is a renowned performer of Spanish guitar. He has performed in Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Portugal, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

In 2004, Mural and Jappelli collaborated on a music album, which was praised by critics.

Concert is free but reservation are required. Call 5261455. Visit www.cervantes.ph/manila.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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**Recycled plastic for Tokyo fest 'green' carpet**

TOKYO—THE TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KICKED OFF Saturday with a reduce-reuse-recycle theme and stars including Americans actress Julianne Moore and Hong Kong actor Tony Leung Chiu-wai walking a "green" carpet made of recycled plastic bottles. The entire nine-day festival has a no-frills approach, and Cindy Chupack, one of the organizers, is including an ecology category with films on the environment and documentaries about climate change and animals. AP

CHEER FACTOR

## INSIDE

Guess which celebrity dad this is, happily feeding his beautiful baby boy? Dollywood /F1

How David Benoit played 'My Way' while Pinoy sang in LA karaoke joint Exclusive /E3

No, he's not back with Cristine Reyes, says Dennis Trillo /E4

Reporters hound Dingdong Dantes during Kapuso event /F4

Lea Salonga plays on 'Deal' for anti-breast cancer group Click /E4

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1 MAX PAYNE
2 SINDE II
3 THE STRANGERS
4 TROPIC THUNDER
5 BODY OF LIES
6 APPALOOSA
7 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
8 SINDE II
9 MIRRORS / BURIED ALIVE
10 EAGLE EYE

### ERMITA

1 TROPIC THUNDER
2 THE STRANGERS
3 MAX PAYNE
4 BODY OF LIES
5 APPALOOSA
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 BURIED ALIVE / EAGLE EYE
9 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

### METRO EAST

1 BURIED ALIVE
2 BODY OF LIES
3 MAX PAYNE
4 MIRRORS
5 TROPIC THUNDER
6 APPALOOSA
7 EAGLE EYE
8 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

### NOVALICHES

1 MAX PAYNE
2 BODY OF LIES
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 MIRRORS

### PIONEER

1 THE STRANGERS
2 MAX PAYNE
3 APPALOOSA
4 BODY OF LIES

### STA. ROSA

1 MAX PAYNE
2 BODY OF LIES
3 EAGLE EYE
4 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

### LIPA

1 MIRRORS
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
3 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL
4 DISASTER MOVIE

### DASMARINAS

1 BODY OF LIES
2 THREE KINGDOMS
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 MAX PAYNE

### IMUS

1 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
2 BODY OF LIES
3 EAGLE EYE
4 MAX PAYNE

### ANGELES

1 MAX PAYNE
2 IGOR
3 MUTANT CHRONICLES
4 EAGLE EYE

### STARMILLS

1 MAX PAYNE
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
3 EAGLE EYE
4 MAKE IT HAPPEN
5 MUTANT CHRONICLES
6 IGOR

### BACOLOD

1 MAX PAYNE
2 MUTANT CHRONICLES
3 THREE KINGDOMS
4 MAKE IT HAPPEN
5 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL
6 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

### ILOILO

1 MAX PAYNE
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
3 100 FEET
4 BODY OF LIES
5 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL
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FRANCES Lumen of MTV Philippines, center, with recent visitors Al Jarreau far left, and George Benson. Jarreau did not perform his famous "Spain" at the Big Bonsi show, but was "really happy" when his big fan, Richard Herd, sang a rollercoaster backstage.

# Down time with the famous

IT'S A DONE DEAL, DIVERSUS THE Manila source of current global show circuit: Beyonce and Chris Brown on Nov. 16. But swinging it was the opposite of easy, and inviting even the details is ongoing.

Here may be thanking MTV Philippines and Chito Telecom for the gig, possibly this year's biggest collaboration event involving topnotch talent. In truth, Rhian Pascua of Music Management International, MTV Philippines' talent buyer, has played a major role, too, in bringing the celebrity sweethearts here from separate Asian tours.

An MTV Philippines insider says Brown's team demanded a talent fee equal to Rihanna's, which was, naturally, unacceptable to the latter's manager. The insider says this was a major sore point, since talking to each other.

Asked about this, MTV Philippines president Francis Lumen explains, "Ideally artists [are] treated in the same show should be billed to the same hotel. In efficiency. In this case, the hotel has only one presidential suite—which will, of course, be given to the bigger star."

Hence has not revealed how the conflict was resolved, beyond saying that Brown's management was easier to please in the end.

In terms of budget, the Nov. 16 show is MTV Philippines' biggest venture to date, according to Lumen. (A ticket sales source is ongoing until Oct. 31, with prices from P800 to P1,500, P1,000 and P1,000. Starting Nov. 1, the tags go up to P900, P1,000, P1,000 and P1,000.)

There are always kinks to overcome big events, Lumen says. "But his group and other promoters forge on, he notes, is proof that results outweigh the obstacles. He has, from research on some other things apart from gratitude—his treasure: these letters with colorful accordion-shaped horoscope performers as well.

### Alicia Keys

For instance, Lumen has seen that multi-Grammy winner Alicia Keys truly enjoys events and guests. "She takes her time with every person. Her managers may be signaling to us—and to her—to hurry along, but she will not be rushed." Another star just like this, Lumen says, is Beyonce. "She is very generous with her time." Christina Aguilera and Mariah Carey, he adds, will usually just agree to quick photo-ops.

### David Benoit

He has pleasant recollections of down time spent with jazz pianist David Benoit. "Years ago, when he performed at the ISCC, we had a few free hours after rehearsals. We went to Robinsons Ermita, and—true to form—the Ramsbo Restaurant, where a dinner guy was playing out of Dutch hits. The guy had his back to us and didn't even turn when David applauded. I approached him and said, 'Do you know who is watching you?' When he saw David, he fell to his knees! David invited him to the show."

Benoit and Lumen have since become friends. Lumen remembers one specific episode in Los Angeles. "After dinner in a Korean place, we moved to the karaoke bar next door. The owners knew David, and invited him to play the piano. David obliged with one number, after which a Pinoy customer rushed onstage and asked David, whom he obviously didn't recognize, to accompany him on 'My Way.' David no more went along with it."

### Stephen Bishop

Speaking of karaoke joints ... Lumen brought Stephen Bishop to a local KTV bar. "Seeing his songs in the selection, Stephen reimbursed himself to one of the GROL who didn't believe him. So he sang one song ... a few other GROs had gathered around us by then. Nobody believed him until we left."

### Kenny G

Lumen's joke from the crowd-pleasers. On this list is saxophonist Kenny G. "So the hire coming from the airport, he told me he wanted to say a few lines in Tagalog during his concert that evening. I taught him the usual 'Kumusta Kayo,' 'Maganda ang gabi' ... But he made my overdone eight sentences—which he delivered during the concert—few hours later!"

### Michael Bublé

Also on this list is Michael Bublé, whom Lumen says has "great PR." He recalls an album launch at the Peninsula in Qingdao Grand, where Michael asked a woman why she was on the phone while he was singing. She said she was telling her friend that she was a few seconds away from Bublé that very moment. He took the phone from her and sang to the friend."

### Josh Groban

But Lumen's favorite example of the "really nutsoid type" is Josh Groban. "He talked to everybody ... the waitress, everybody. To think so he didn't want to come here, because of what he had been seeing on CNN ... and his managers had earlier insisted that his security detail should be carrying long arms. Now he wants to come back to Manila on his own Asian tour."

### Kenyn Lottau

Kenyn Lottau sincerely loves Filipino audiences, Lumen says. "She sings 'Sana Maulit Muli' even in her US shows, when she sees Filipinos in the audience. Kaya kapag nyang marining ovation sa mga Pinoy."

### Al Jarreau

During a sold-out gig at the Big Bonsi, it was the featured artist that applauded a loud ovation. As Lumen tells it: "Al Jarreau's [who played with George Benson] famous 'Spain' song was not on the set list. Maybe he was no longer up to singing it. Backstage after the show, Richard Herd sang it to Jarreau, and he was really happy."

Lumen says not all concert producers are generous with encores like those with stars. "But the dancers are good, especially if the artist is just merely famous—for example, if he/she hasn't won a Grammy." Rowena G. Mabasa

Big concert promoter has the fortune of seeing int'l artists at their most human

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RIHANNA performs with Chris Brown (this, i.e. it wasn't easy to seal this deal.

ALICIA Keys refuses to be rushed during a meet-and-greet with fans.

# Dennis Trillo: Cristine chapter finished

By Marianne R. Cruz

MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER BREAKING up with actress Cristine Reyes, controversial actor Dennis Trillo denies that he has gotten back with his ex-girlfriend.

"I don't know why people keep putting two and two together. There's nothing wrong with Cristine being inside the GMA 7 building," Dennis said during the launch of his new Lupin shoes, "Gagambino," permitting tonight.

A tabloid report said Cristine was spotted inside the Kapuso compound in Quezon City, visiting the actor who was, at the time, rehearsing scenes for the action series.

In a separate article, Cristine said she was indeed inside the premises—not to see Dennis but to speak with her coworker-comedians, who also has a client at GMA 7. Cristine is an exclusive talent of rival network ABS-CBN.

The night. That episode (involving Cristine) in my life is finished. I don't want to dwell on it. I just want to concentrate on my work," said Dennis.

In "Gagambino," Dennis plays Bino, who has superhuman strength and powers given by the sorcerer Jacobo (Leo Martinez). Like Lupin, Bino can climb walls and leap from one building to another like also his sharp and venomous fangs.

Dennis is paired once again with new actress Kristine Hotilla. The team-up comes in the heels of their successful pairing in the TV adaptation of DEKC Comics's "Mga Kuto Ko."

Kristine plays Lucy, an actress. Like Bino, she is a star-fighter. She possesses the abilities of a praying mantis. She is the master of camouflage and has bladed hands and arms that she can use at a remarkable speed.

"Yes, there will be more kissing scenes with Kris?" Dennis said. "We've never (confronted) with each other (yet). I enjoy working with her. Like me, she's serious with her work and is constantly looking for ways to improve her acting. For a love team to be successful, we have to have the same goal."

It is romantic relationship with Kristine possible? "Anong mangyayari ang nasa. We will have a long way to go in the show to consensual, a lot of things can happen," said Dennis. "I don't think about my love life so much right now."

To prepare for "Gagambino," Dennis underwent acting workshops and strenuous physical training. He also had to lose weight for the role.

He trained in the art of Pekiting which he described as an athletic discipline that allows a person to move deftly from one point to another.

"I had an accident once," Dennis shared. "I had my right knee when I landed incorrectly. Fortunately the pain only lasted for a day. The stunts in 'Gagambino' are really dangerous. Wag sanang gayahin ng mga bata."

Dennis said he hoped his ex Gabbi Garcia (beauty queen Corinne Agustin) will like his latest show. "Gabbi is just a year old now, but whenever he sees me on TV he says, 'Daddy' Mahalbesos' ni 'Gabbi' and then pound kisses.

"Gagambino" also stars Nadine Samonte, Dido Rascales, Isabel Oli, Raymart Santiago, Gloria de Castro, Matt Escudero and Jean and Jessica Garcia. Tonel Lee and Son Michael Pond direct.

E-mail: marianne@inquirer.com.ph

DENNIS as the lead character in 'Gagambino'

## New episodes of hit US shows

FRESH EPISODES OF 14 HIT AMERICAN programs begin this month on Studio 23.

The second season of the Emmy-award-winning "Samantha Who?" starring Quintessential Applegate as amnesiac Samantha Newly airs on Thursdays starting Oct. 26 at 9 p.m.

Also taking their new seasons are: "Here Sexy Money," Sundays, 9:45 p.m.; "Grey's Anatomy," Mondays, 8:30 p.m.; "Brothers and Sisters," Mondays, 9:30 p.m.; "Ugly Betty," Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.; "Smallville," Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m.; and "Desperate Housewives," Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.; "The Amazing Race 11," Mondays, 8 p.m. and "Survivor," 8:30 p.m., and "Ghost Whisperer," Fridays, 8:30 p.m.

CHRISTINA Applegate

### 'Ladies Night'

Julie Louis-Dreyfus and Debra Messing make their TV comeback this month with "Ladies Night" every Monday on 2nd Avenue.

"Seinfeld" cast member Louis-Dreyfus returns to her Emmy-winning role as Christine Campbell in the third season of "The New Adventures of Old Christine" at 8:30 p.m., about a divorced working mom's daily stresses of motherhood and business.

Former "Will & Grace" star Messing returns in "The Starter Wife" centering about life after divorce and a woman's quest to redefine herself. It airs at 9 p.m.

### Boardroom drama

Lines between boardroom and bedroom blur in "Big Shots," a new drama airing on 2nd Avenue this month on Fridays 9 p.m.

The show stars Michael Vartan, Christopher Titus, Joshua Malina and Dylan McDermott as four competitive but dysfunctional New York CEOs who take refuge in their friendship—discussing business, scrubbing sword, seeking advice and supporting one another through life's ups and lows.

### Lea on 'Deal'

Broadway star and Tony winner Lea Salonga plays on tonight's "Kapamilya Deal or No Deal" for the benefit of the I Can Save Breast Cancer advocacy group. The game show airs before "TV Patrol World" on ABS-CBN.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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TROY Montero with son Hunter Cody. His cry is music to their ears.

## Hunter is home

PARENTS AUBREY MIKAS AND TROY Montero are crazy about their baby boy.

"Motherhood keeps me grounded," said Aubrey, who gave birth to Hunter Cody on Oct. 3. "Hunter has made Troy and I discover so many things about ourselves."

They plan to have Hunter baptized here in Manila and also in the US where Troy's family is based.

This time two-hour? "I put on Hunter's diaper the wrong way so he ended up drinking some of his poo." Doesn't Troy get jealous when she focuses her attention more on their baby? "Not at all. Though he makes cubo (in a mothering way for) himself being an only child at Hunter pag kinarga ko but pag siya nagcry, Hunter doesn't stop crying."

But Hunter's cry is music to their ears as it brings Aubrey and Troy nonstop smiles. Their feud is over. Hunter's home.

### Playing hero

"It's hard to play a superhero because people look up to me, especially the kids. So I have to really be good on and off screen or I would be unlikely as a role model," said Dennis Trillo.

That means he will make his fellow hunk "Sebastian," too, from top-title GMA 7's "Engkantasya," which premieres tonight on the Telebabad block. Created by multiawarded graphic novel master Carlo J. Caparas, it tells the story of heroism, friendship, love and deceit.

Dens portrays Sion, an orphan whose best friend is a giant spider. He felt like a spider himself when he was caught in a web of intrigues about Cardinal Aguilar and Cristine Reyes.

"The truth has set me free," declared Dens. "I feel as alive like never before."

Is Rhett Bomgaitens one of the reasons for his just-as-cover? "I love working with Rei. I love women in general. Nothing gonna change that."

What will DejaDEN's next "Little Miss Muffet" be?

### No fanfare

Gabby Concepcion wants to celebrate his birthday on Nov. 5 in a quiet way. "Since I came home, my life's been like a circus. So on my birthday I'd rather have no fanfare. I plan to have dinner lang with my family, mom and mother-in-law who are both widows.

HUNTER F2

DOLLY WOOD

*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

DID YOU KNOW...

### Singer Richard Carpenter planning comeback

TOKYO—RICHARD CARPENTER OF THE Carpenters says he is ready to make a comeback. All he needs is a partner.

Carpenter, who with his sister Karen formed one the most successful pop acts in the 1970s, announced on his 62nd birthday Wednesday in Tokyo that he will help produce and perform on a tribute album of Carpenter covers due out later next year.

"It's a different business. Music is a different world from when Karen and I were signed by Herb Alpert in 1969," he said. "I'm looking for someone who has her great talent but does not...doesn't try to...sound like Karen. I've been looking for years."

AP

# Stars' history of violence helps Western

LOS ANGELES—ED HARRIS AND VIGGO Mortensen are both on the right side of the law in "Appaloosa," but the chemistry they shared as adversaries in 2005's "A History of Violence" remains.

Aside from some striking scenery, their comfortable dynamic is just about all that makes "Appaloosa" worth watching.

Harris, an Everyman, producer, co-writer and star, has come up with an old-school Western that feels, by turns, hokey and hotly episodic. And for a movie that takes place during a time when folks were heading West with bold dreams, "Appaloosa" never really goes anywhere.

**All instinct**

Based on the novel by Robert B. Parker, the film finds Harris' Virgil Cole taking over the lawless New Mexico town of Appaloosa as marshal in 1882. By his side, as always, is his trusted deputy, friend Hitch (Mortensen), who muscle with him from place to place, keeping the peace. Cole is all instinct, Hitch is the thinker.

Their routine consists of showing up and laying down the law, then kicking back as punches and, in subarea, inevitably trading one-liners. (A running joke in which Cole grasps for a meany word like "disparaging" or "unsanctimonious," and Hitch immediately provides it, isn't all that cute the first time.)

But their reverie is disrupted by a couple of lovers.

One is the villainous rancher Randall Bragg (Jeremy Irons), whose murder of the last marshal led to Cole's hiring. Irons is supposed to be the most fearsome figure in the film: He's an unstoppable killer and he's got money and power on his side, a dangerous combination. But his accent is so thick and buzzing, it sounds as if he's doing a bad impression of Daniel Day-Lewis in "There Will Be Blood," which takes you completely out of the movie every time he opens his mouth. He never threatens to drink anyone's milkshake, but you suspect that if Appaloosa had a diner, he just might.

**REVIEW**

Then there's flirty widow Allison French (Renée Zellweger), who is sure to sway. A pianist with proper manners and fine dresses, she's obviously not from around these parts. But what she is never becomes truly clear. She's more of an idea, and a clichéd, entanglement one, at that: the newly unemployed city woman who has always got to have a man in her life to stabilize herself. Zellweger typically squints and rambles her way through the performance, but then again she doesn't have much more to work with. Harris's wrote the script with Robert Knott.)

Still, Cole falls for Allie, as she likes to be called, even though as a heroine, he should be role-model of everyone. And Harris secures that she's becoming a distraction in Cole, even as things get more combustible as the film nears its end.

There's a predictable, by-the-numbers quality to the whole movie. That's pretty much how "Appaloosa" progresses: There's some sort of shooting, followed by a bit of romance in the downtime, and so on.

Harris, though, seems well-suited in this time in history and to the characters. He certainly has the look of a classic Western hero, his craggy face and piercing blue eyes peering out from beneath his hat.

**Complicated men**

As in 2000's "Pollock," his first directing effort (which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor), he seems drawn to material about complicated men. Mortensen, of course, is a complex character who can shape himself into any role, be it a hunk in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy or an undercover in "Eastern Promises." Here, he's still underestimated.

If the movie had focused more in-depth on the friendship between Cole and Hitch, it would have been far more engaging. Sinner, because movies about male relationships, in all their complex forms, are hard to come by—especially ones that aren't just adolescent, Apatow-style "bromances" or comic book-inspired fantasies. AP


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SARI DUET Basil Valdez and Regine Velasquez

JULIE ANNE San Jose and Jasmine Villegas

MAXENE Magalona and Mikaeli Ramos

# Hounding Dong at Kapuso . . .

From page F4

KATRINA Halili and Dennis Trillo

conclusion.

The program opened with a song from Regine Velasquez, backed up by violinist Coke Bolipata. She also did a duet with hitchiker Basil Valdez later in the show.

Actresses Katrina Halili and Rochelle Pangilinan joined the Philippine Ballet Theater Dancers in a dance number. Jay R sang a medley of rock ditties with the TP Concert Chorus and musical director Sonny Sto. Douglas. Nieza' Powerdance shared the stage with them.

Robert Villar, Jeanine Villegas and Julie Anne San Jose were featured in a fantasy-themed number. "Pinoy Pop Superstar" winners Kindle Sarita, Jessalyn Vinoy and Marinela Garcia sang a couple of romantic songs.

Comedians Ogie Alcasid and Michael V performed as their famous "Bubble Gang" characters Angelica and Yaya. Aiza Seguerra

GERMAN Moreno

sang a medley of rock tunes. Dingdong and Marian danced the Flamenco. Jay Durias and Joya Ramsay sang during the parade of Kapuso talents.

The special production airs on GMA 7's Sunday Night Box Office Oct. 26.

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

## AT THE CINEMAS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE | 3 THE STRANGERS | 4 SULAM |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 TROPIC THUNDER | 2 EAGLE EYE | 3 BODY OF LIES | |
| | 4 PINEAPPLE EXPRESS | 5 MIRRORS | 6 MAX PAYNE | 7 THE STRANGERS |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE | | |
| GREENBELT 3 | 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE | | |
| | 3 PINEAPPLE EXPRESS | 4 THE STRANGERS | 5 TROPIC THUNDER | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 THE STRANGERS | | |
| | 3 BODY OF LIES | 4 EAGLE EYE | 5 TROPIC THUNDER | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 BODY OF LIES | 3 THE KINGDOM | 4 MIRRORS |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 THE STRANGERS | | |
| | 3 TROPIC THUNDER | 4 BODY OF LIES | 5 SULAM | |
| TRINOMA | 1 SULAM | 2 EAGLE EYE | 3 THE STRANGERS | 4 MIRRORS |
| | 5 TROPIC THUNDER | 6 BODY OF LIES | 7 MAX PAYNE | |

## AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB FAIR, October 18 & 19, Glorietta Activity Center
- Greenbelt — SHOPPING SPREE AT GREENBELT 1, Win exciting prizes and a P30,000 EGC for every P300 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment, August 15–October 19
- Alabang Town Center — SOUTHERN CUISINE AT THE TOWN, October 17, 24 & 31, 5:00pm, Home Zone
- Ayala Center Cebu — THINK PINK! MEMORABILIA EXHIBIT, October 13 to 27, Fiesta Estate
- Market! Market! — HEBCAFE SOUNDROOL, October 18, Activity Center
- Christa Glitz — Rhapsody Philippines presents Grandpa's ROJAK II, August 15 to December 15, 2008, For reviews, call 0917 54 or log on to www.rhapsodyphilippines.com
- Ayala Museum — ART WEEK!, Ongoing until 31 December 2008 at Second Floor, For details, call Patricia on 757 7117 loc. 31 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org
- Tri-Noma — BYE U! SEARCH FINALS NIGHT, October 23 - Activity Center; SALSA! Nine Weeknights Workshop, October 23, 6:30pm, 3rd Level Exhibit Area (near PowerMac)

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Trinoma · Tri-Noma

FROM left: the guest of honor, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with GMA-7 president and CEO Felipe Gozon, Ruza Prieto-Rubio and Raymart Santiago, Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera, Robin Padilla, Michael V and Ogie Alcasid as their "Bubble Gang" characters Teya and Angelina.

# Hounding Dong at Kapuso event

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Celis Pascua

ACTOR DINGDONG DANTES HAS KEPT mum about his rumored breakup with girlfriend Karylle, contrary to the singer-actress' categorical denial of a split-up.

"I just want to keep this private," Dingdong told writers during the inauguration of the new GMA Network studios on Friday night. "I never promised a statement when I got back. You never heard those words come out of my mouth," he stressed.

The actor arrived Friday morning from a week-long vacation in the United States. "For the first time in a long while, seeking solitude. I rested. I spent time with my mom," Dingdong said. He was in San Francisco to attend a relative's wedding.

### Karylle annoyed

In an interview with the news program "24 Oras" last week, Karylle said they were very much together and that she was annoyed with the rumors and whoever were spreading them.

"I saw Dong before he left. We don't want to keep talking about the issue because it gets blown out of proportion," Karylle said during the last run of a local production of "West Side Story" where she played Maria.

Despite Karylle's denial, talk persisted that Marian Rivera, Dingdong's "Dyesebel" costar, had caused the couple to split.

On Friday, Dingdong insisted that his relationship with Marian was purely professional. "We're okay as partners on screen. That's what's important," he said.

Karylle, also a Kapuso talent, was a no-show on Friday night. "I don't know where she is," the actor said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro were present to bless the new state-of-the-art installations. Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago, Alan Peter and Bong Revilla also attended the event.

In her 18-minute speech, Ms Arroyo thanked the network not only for providing both news and entertainment but also for making jobs available to people.

### P1B for new studies

It reportedly cost GMA 7 a whopping P1 billion to build the four-story, 3,800 sq. m. building, which houses two large studios.

Around 800 were invited, but only an estimated 200 people were present.

A concert featuring Kapuso talents began at 10:15 p.m. Pero nang kinanta Richard Gutierrez nakiliti gat lihid when a camera man blocked his view of the teleprompter.

Halfway into the show, Richard was supposed to share the stage with co-host Iza Calzado, but he went missing. He soon returned to the stage as the show's

JC DE VERA and Brian Ramos

LEARNING

SIMULATED TRADING

# Buy low, sell high, win big

WE ARE THE CHAMPS: ADMU students Ho, Dy and Mullet with professor Dennis Yu and ING's Cesar Zobarte and Garcia

By Doris C. Dantiso

THREE 19-YEAR-old students from the Ateneo de Manila University all aspire to be top BS Applied Mathematics graduates who would have trained P1 million for managing funds and to outperform broad and stock markets.

For a month and a half, in July to August, Johann Dy, Rhenmyr Carlo Mullet and Bernard Leonhard Ho were tested Ateneans and local financial analysts, wrestled for his grasp to download and study markets, studied complex financial charts and read the business features pages to find ways to grow the money entrusted to them.

Initially given P10 million, they received more investments and ended up with almost P20 million.

The money they traded was not real, of course, and the three boys did not become millionaires, but they did bag the year's championship at the 2008 ING Funds Tournament, with an overall score of 97 percent. By doing so, they brought another honor to the school that topped this year's ASAP basketball tournament.

Dy, Mullet and Ho joined the tournament last year but did not make it to the finals.

For their accomplishment this year, the three young math maestros would get to sit in all corporate panel three-day, two-night trips to Hong Kong courtesy of ING.

A total of 204 teams from nine universities participated in the P40-competition, one of the biggest investor/learner events and first corporate investment tournaments in the country that aimed to provide young people hands-on experience in fixed income and stock market trading.

## Enjoyable trading

This year's winners enjoyed "trading" so much they are now thinking of becoming professional fund managers when they graduate.

Gonzalo Garcia, new country manager of ING Bank, said they tried as much as possible to engage students in the activity and allow them to apply what they learned.

Garcia recalls the United States, one minister in business administration school gave students real money to manage. He said ING might do the same in the future.

"That [real money] is the only thing missing in this exercise," he said during the awarding ceremonies.

Second place with an overall score of 86.62 percent was the University of Asia and the Pacific team of Mark Joseph Nieto, Carlo Gervacio and Raymie Tee. UMAP was also runner-up last year.

SEE LOW, A2

Somewhere out there, stock markets may be falling but in the intercollegiate ING Funds Tournament, Pinoy students make their investments grow

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## "The NUS MBA - Amplifying Your Worth in the Global Corporate Landscape"

### An Interview with Students and Alumni of The NUS MBA

Ranked as the most preferred Singapore school by international recruiters in 2008 QS TopMBA.com and ranked second in International Mobility by Financial Times MBA Rankings in 2007. The NUS MBA serves as the benchmark for students in the global corporate landscape. Today, The NUS MBA graduates are working in top Fortune 500 companies, across a multitude of industries, and are commanding a salary as much as 20 times their pre-MBA salaries.

Mr. Ken Ir Yeol, a Korean who started his Master in Business Administration (MBA) course in August of this year, has this to say, "I believe The NUS MBA programme will equip me with the necessary expertise to deal with the rapid changes in the global market. Moreover, the diversity of MBA students in NUS will enable me to build a strong network, while pursuing a comprehensive and practical curriculum that is beneficial to my career in the future."

Mr. Park Jaewoo, an alumnus from the Class of 2001, who is now with Samsung Korea, shared "Singapore has its unique and competitive strengths due to its geographical location, a truly cosmopolitan city with a diversity of working environment and yet a very safe place to live and become hub of Southeast Asia. I strongly believe that Southeast Asia will be the next growth engine of the global economy because this region has so much potential. If you want to focus in Asia and differentiate yourself, The NUS MBA could be the ideal school for you."

Other Asian members who is from the Philippines and the awardee of The NUS MBA 2008's Lee Ferguson Scholarship for students who have distinguished themselves through volunteer work in our government or non-governmental (NGOs) or charitable organisations is pursuing the NUS MBA degree. "Asia is definitely the place to be right now. And Singapore is the best location to study business in Asia. Since Singapore is one of the most open economies in the world, its international diversity is the perfect backdrop for higher education in business."

When it comes down to choosing a university, Ir Haris YEO was the obvious choice.

"I chose NUS because it is the premier university of Singapore and consistently ranks as one of the best universities in the world. The huge campus and excellent facilities are superb bonuses. The faculty and the staff are truly world-class. The programme is rigorous and fun at the same time. The library resources are fantastic. I have always put a premium on information access, and The NUS MBA gives us that."

Another graduate of The NUS MBA, Mr Gopalakrishnan Raghavan, an Indian national currently working with Google Singapore, adds, "Singapore is a very unique city, no matter where part of Asia you are from, you never feel too far away from home. Singapore is a great place to live and work. And one of the best things is that I was a keen sailor, and Singapore was/is your MBA. More importantly, the MBA has helped me find work and a company that I'm passionate about."

To learn more about The NUS MBA, visit mba.nus.edu. Visit mba.nus.edu/events to attend a programme briefing in your city.

# Teachers meet to tackle ultimate challenge of saving the environment

THE SMITHSONIAN FOUNDATION Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators (Noted) will hold its Second National Tri-Level Conference of Teachers and Educators on Oct. 23-24 at Manila Hotel, Rizal Boulevard, Manila.

With the theme "Saving the Environment through Education: the Ultimate Challenge," the conference will be keynoted by Dr. Eileen Crumy, chair of the Earth Day Network Philippines. Other speakers include Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Director-General Ralph Recto of the National Economic and Development Authority, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, DOST Usec Dave Ogena, UP-Manila Dir. Merle Yee, Dr. Nona Mendoza of CHED, Dr. Percy Ong of UP Diliman, Dr. Thelma Cruz of Enpold, Rael Salvatierra of PCIEERD, formerly dean Antonio La Viña, MBN-CBN Foundation's Regina Rae Lopez, Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, SVD, Agnes C. de Jesus of PNOC-EDC, and Dr. Walter Brown of Philex Mining Corporation.

For more information, contact Dr. Gaudiano P. Nuncal Jr. (gpnuncal@slu.edu.ph, or 8372020 and 8372026), Dr. Teresita P. Bolinao (7350631 to 33 loc. 5122, 0915-4455593, or tbolinao@yahoo.com), Silverbanks Foundation Inc. (8900858 or 4988833), Evelyn Cada (8207987, or cell: emc@yahoo.com), and Dr. Ady Pedro (8917 8482077, or bbpedro@yahoo.com).

ASEAP Sining will present the country's best folk dances in Bucheon.

## PNU dance troupe joins cultural expo

THE ASEAP-SINING DANSO, Troupe of the Philippine Normal University is representing the Philippines in the 2009 World Intangible Cultural Heritage Expo on Oct. 19-22 in Bucheon City, South Korea. The 18 dancers led by Dr. Larry A. Galvez, artistic director, will exhibit the best Filipino folk dances. The PNU Asiaep Sining Dance Troupe was officially invited by the city mayor of Bucheon, Kong Gee-Pyo, through the coordination of Byong K. Goh, president and chief executive officer of Three Seven Foods and Products Incorporated.

## PWU school is 40

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY of the Philippine Women's University observed recently its 40th founding anniversary during the Medical Technology Week held at the Gonzalo Benitez Hall, Taft campus, Manila. The event featured exhibits, symposia and research forum on the theme "Road Mapping the Future of Allied Health Professions." During the mass to formally open the exhibits are (from left) Dr. Rita Lim, dean of the School of Medical Technology; Chancellor Dr. Dolores Lasan; PWU chaplain Fr. Antonio Ribina, and Dr. Yolanda Aruga, Professional Regulation Commission Board of Nursing member.

## Estanislao speaks at UE convocation

SR. JESUS P. ESTANISLAO, chair of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, talked on "Good Governance" as he keynoted in recently the University Convocation at the SE theater as part of the week-long celebration of the University of the East's 82nd foundation anniversary. The audience included (front, from left) College of Dentistry dean Brenda Dy; registrar Romeo Arevalo; SHRO director Anna Villegas; executive vice president Carmelita Matias; president Ester Garcia; UE Manila chancellor Bobbielyn Bitra; UE Caloocan chancellor Samuel Samaran; Graduate School dean John Bala; libraries director Norma Jhonson, and assistant director Floridelma Maricaba. Estanislao said a good place to start instituting good governance would be with institutions like the family, schools, businesses and corporations, and local government units.

## UPH nursing student is among RP's Top 10

ANGELICA T. ELARDE, a senior nursing student of the University of Perpetual Help (UPH) in Las Piñas City, was named one of the Ten Most Outstanding Nursing Students in the Philippines by the Outstanding International Student Service and Knight Center during the 2nd Nursing Expo at SM Megamall.

ELARDE

Unlike most nursing students who want to go abroad, Elarde plans to work in the country as a community health nurse after graduation. Dr. Ced Antonio L. Tamayo, UPH president, chief executive officer, and board chair, said this was proof the university's students had the knowledge, skills and values needed to fulfill their mission "to serve as 'stewards of God.'" The Search for Ten Most Outstanding Nursing Students was one of the highlights of the 2nd Nursing Expo which had the theme "A Tribute to Global Filipino Nurses."

## Letran signs new training agreement

COLEGIO DE SAN JUAN DE LETRAN and the Magsaysay Training Center have signed an agreement on the training on maritime safety of the school's hospitality management course students. Magsaysay will provide the training syllabus for Basic Safety Course (BSC), defines lectures, provide training equipment, materials and facilities and conduct courses outside Letran. The agreement was signed by Romeo S. Piccio, head, Magsaysay Training Center, and Rev. Fr. Telmeliaro F. Lara, O.P., Letran rector and president. Present during the signing were Rev. Fr. Julio Pinedo, O.P., Letran's academic vice-rector; Capt. Arnulfo C. Dubouzet, Magsaysay 's training manager; Jean Maria Victoria Flores, College of Business Administration, and Rowanna Macapaz, marketing officer, Magsaysay Training Center.

## MDM kids hone skills through cooking

THE BOISTEROUS MONTESSORI (MDM) school held its regular cooking activity recently, with students preparing food for the day's guests. Cookery has always been part of the MDM's curriculum in line with Montessori's Practical Life Exercises (PLE). It allows the children to develop motor and other skills through the different procedures involved in preparing a meal. PLE also promotes sharing, social grace and courtesy, sense of order, independence and self-esteem. Cooking is also considered a good exercise in concentration as children get absorbed in their task. MDM invites parents and friends from pre-school and government sectors for the culinary activity. This year, guest chefs Julius Bayas, Daisy Montiel and Marco Mantapos of Chef Luigie's Institute of Culinary and Kitchen Services (Chiks) in Extra-Crame, Quezon City, attended.

MDM kids display their culinary skills for parents and guests.

## Adamson counselor is 8th in licensure exam

JANICE TRIGUERO of the Adamson University was eighth in the recent licensure examination for guidance counselors. She tied with Fr. Joselito Sevilla, C.M., a Vincentian priest assigned at the St. Vincent School of Theology in Tandang Sora. Dionne Dita Adamson counselors Leah Recuenco and Lovelyn Papas also passed the exam. Out of 140 examinees, 83 passed the test administered by the Professional Regulatory Board of Guidance and Counseling. Triguero, 27, graduated from St. Joseph's College-QC with a B.S. in Psychology degree. She finished her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling at the University of Santo Tomas. Meanwhile, senior Adamson guidance counselors Dr. Angelina Miranda, Richmond Yap and Dr. Lee Mondano qualified for the Counselor Board exam but were exempted from taking the licensure exam.

## Arellano debating team wins

THE ARELLANO UNIVERSITY Law Forensic Guild debating team beat Ateneo de Davao in the recent finals of the Square-off ANC CVC Law debates on the proposition: "Lot it be resolved that: The law should hold local officials' shoulders lifted." Arellano debaters were Rochelle Marie C. Rosas, a fourth year executive class student and gold grantee; Luis Anthony R. Warren, a graduating student, and Charles Ivan de Dewangkor, a freshman. Warren was the tandem's choice for Best Speaker and the Judges' Choice as Best Speaker during the elimination and quarterfinals. The competition started in June. Square-off ANC CVE Law debates were aired live on Channel 27 via Skycable.

FROM LEFT: Luis Anthony R. Warren, Rochelle Marie C. Rosas and Charles Francis Dewangkor.


Playgrounds for the Mind

STI

UC UE

# Math ace now trains young wizards

MATH WIZARDS Carlo Manzano and his students

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MEET CARLO BRIAN ANGELO Manzano.

After a brief stint in the corporate world, the 23-year-old BS Management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University is devoting his time to the Mathematics Trainers' Guild-Philippines (MTG), a nonstock, nonprofit group aiming to "promote excellence in mathematics" and help train students in various countries abroad.

Its inspiration: Manzano's success in MTG-wired himself.

As an elementary pupil in Davao he was with the third group trained by MTG. "It introduced me to problems in math and sharpened my nippon-kokon for the subject. And, of course, it gave us the opportunity to represent the country in international competitions," he recalled.

Manzano said, as a student, he joined 50 MTG competitions, ranging from math contests in school to foreign competitions. He was the first Filipino to claim first honors at the Primary Mathematics World Competitions (PMWC) while in elementary.

MTG president Dr. Simon L. Chua said Manzano gave MTG its first gold medal to a international competition.

Chua, along with professor Rochilda Villarue, Lois Ong and Ishmael Jose Flaire, private school math coaches, founded the MTG in 1995.

Nowadays, it also received the Australian Mathematics Competition medal (given to only about 20 out of 500,000 high school students participants from around the world each year).

As an income distributor, he won the country's biggest collegiate math competition, the University of the Philippines Search for the Math Wizard.

## Starting young

He said his special interest in math started when he was a kid.

"My dad (Daily Inquirer columnist) and I went through the multiplication table when I was 6.

Then my mother (Lydia, a retired airline employee) usually bought math textbooks as her pasalubong from abroad. Also, I joined the usual math contests in school," he said.

Even when he was young, he wanted to be what he is now—teaching math to talented kids and training them to be champions.

When not training young math wizards, Manzano keeps busy with a small tutorial center at the family home in La Mesa Subdivision in San Pedro, Laguna.

He considered as his "biggest accomplishment" as a math trainer having eight of his former students bagging medals at the annual PMWC in Po Leung Kuk, Hong Kong.

## Best year ever

According Manzano, 2008 could be MTG's best yet in its 13-year history.

He said students who entered to make such a huge part of their lives, should embrace it: "Don't study math simply for the grades or to earn whatever reward your parents promised you. Study it because you appreciate its intricacies and the challenges it brings."

He also stressed that excellence could not be achieved overnight. He said training in contests and challenging tests were among the challenges to be faced.

Manzano said a major factor contributing to everyone in math was the learning environment.

"It heals that an open class on math education by providing supplementary training in where teachers go the extra mile in coaching math fundamentals casually produce winners," he said.

The MTG, backed by private supporters, including business firms, currently runs nearly 40 training centers, with an average of 10 trainees each, except in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

To choose trainees, the MTG conducts a qualifying exams, inviting schools to send their students to take the exams. Those from private schools who are chosen pay for the three-stage training. Public school students are trained for free.

Since the mid-1980s, the MTG has trained over 3,000 students from all over the country. They won 1 51, 246 and 908 gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, in foreign competitions, Chua said.

The MTG participates in about 10 foreign contests a year.

Next month, MTG team will compete in the International World Youth, Math Inter-Cities and Elementary Math Interscholastic contests in Thailand.

# Hong Kong hosts scientists of the future

By Linda B. Bohilo

TWO FILIPINO graduate students will be among some 95 participants in the Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) to be held Oct. 19-27 at the Hong Kong Science Park in Hong Kong.

Joining the annual event organized by Novartis, a leading research-based pharmaceutical company are Jan Ryan C. Orbeta, a BS in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman who is taking his masters in Public Health at UP Manila and is a science research specialist of the research institute for Tropical Medicine; and Christian Lora M. Leyson, a masteral cum laude graduate of BS Molecular Biology & Biotechnology of UP Diliman who is taking her MS Molecular Biology & Biotechnology also at UP Diliman and is a research assistant of the university's Plant Molecular Biology and Plant Virology Laboratory.

The three-day Hong Kong event brings together graduate and post-graduate students from around the world who are interested in pursuing careers in biotechnology and have leadership and management potentials.

The global program "aims to support the development of the biotechnology industry by providing high-level education to young talents ... Participants acquire in-depth knowledge of the latest developments in the global biotech industry, acquire cross-cultural and disciplinary competencies, as well as cutting-edge expertise and management skills essential for success in the biotechnology business."

## The future

At the recent Novartis Philippines Biotechnology Leadership Camp that chose the two participants, speakers said "biotechnology is the future" and stressed its importance to dealing with existing and future problems.

Biotechnology defined "the science of the future," is defined as the application of scientific and engineering principles to the processing of materials by biological agents to provide goods and services.

It is often associated with the manipulation of living organisms or their components, through genetic engineering, to produce useful commercial products like disease-resistant and/or high-yielding crops, new pharmaceutical preparations, etc.

Peter Goldschmidt, Novartis Philippines president and chief executive officer, said, "Biotechnology has been pivotal in advances made in the life sciences, medicine, agriculture and food manufacturing."

Novartis believed, he said, that biotechnology would also have an important role in promoting the growth of the national economy.

## Global careers

The Hong Kong BioCamp, he added, was in pursuit of the company's mission "to help young researchers and scientists find ways to develop their global careers . . . Just living with people of the same interest (would already be useful)."

In a message read by Dr. Jaime Montoya, Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro and BioCamp participants represented the next generation of scientists and researchers. She stressed biotechnology's "limitless possibilities" as it was useful in the production of drugs, synthesis of hormones and the development of consumer goods.

"The Philippines can benefit a lot from the application of biotechnology in food production, drug manufacturing, agriculture . . ." Montoya said.

Other speakers stressed the potential for success in business and industry, academia and other fields of those who pursued careers in biotechnology.

Goldschmidt said BioCamp was part of Novartis' commitment to corporate citizenship. Through the annual program, the company "aims to enhance the global competitiveness of future Filipino scientists and managers and, ultimately, contribute to nation-building."

(TOP RIGHT) Dr. Francis Domingo, Goldschmidt, Montoya, Christine Limsaeng and Fernando Segerte

FILIPINO students, with their APEC award certificates, are shown with (from left) Simon L. Chua, Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro, Peter Taylor, Ambassador Noel Smith, Flora Brawner and Lilia Lauron.

## Filipino students awarded in Aussie competitions

SIX FILIPINO STUDENTS WHO got perfect scores in this year's Australian Big Science Competition and 40 others who garnered top honors in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) have been cited by the Australian government.

Ms Jane Frain Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Noel Smith and Professor Peter Taylor of the Australian Mathematics Trust led the recent awarding rites at the Manila Grand Opera Hotel in Manila.

The Filipino top scorers in the 2008 Big Tests Big Science were Jared Jeremy Bautista of Ateneo de Manila University, Jessica Ann Vitata of Ateneo Junior/Grade 9 High School, Ashley Jason Virata of Ateneo University Science High School, Kathlyn Suzanne Lemay of Ateneo Christian College, and Mariah Alexander Tan and Raphael Leamond Ko of Xavier School.

The competition is administered early this year by Australian Science Innovations.

Top students were given IBBC prize awards. Ironlaced from the one of the Philippine Science High School (Main), Henry Jefferson Wong and Dane Julius Tan of Chung Hua Middle School, John Poland Virata of Gideon Academy, Jose Enrico Louis of De Guzman Elementary Institute, and Mikaela Angelina Uy, Vince Sy, Justin Chua, Seanne Ng and Carmela Antonette Lao, all from St. Jude Catholic School.

Thirty-eight others got IAMC certificates of high participation. They include Andrea Sorita and Cyndel Christian Ong of UNO-High School, Justin Placiado of Jubilee Christian Academy, Michael Rodolfo of Colegio San Agustin-Makati, Brandon Go of Xavier School, Percival Byron Gomez of the Philippine Cultural College, Zhang Rong Wei of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Mark Adrian Yard Si, Stephen Uy of school, and Miguel Angelo Tolentino of the East Bonifacio Elementary School, among others.

Last July, they competed with students from other participating world in the AMC, as international correspondents math competition that tests everything from the skills/ basic numeracy skills to advance problem solving. JET

# Buy low, sell high, win big

From page G1

The Assumption College team of Ernel Bongco, Cha Cruz and Maple Palacio was third with an overall score of 77 percent.

The second prize winners received P18,000 in cash while the third got P13,000.

The six-minute-timed participants to manage a balanced portfolio of Philippine stocks, bonds, mutual fund, time deposit, and bonds and had to equilibrate or resolve. Performance measures were based on total returns (50 percent), capital preservation (25 percent) and consistency to ensure preservation (25 percent).

Contestants had to adhere to investment regulations. Failure to comply meant reduction in points.

## Winning recipe

Discussing their winning strategy, Dy said, "We had division of work, but the first round, is non-more orchestrated. We had to decide on our stocks."

At 9:30 p.m. every day, the three met online to discuss, argue and sometimes bargain on trading positions. If one wanted to buy 100 shares and the other 50, they would settle for 75.

When there were controversies, they would consult their chosts and try to resolve price movements. Lombao was tasked with monitoring and updating economic data. They tried to determine if the trend was going for or against their trading positions.

Their best strategy was the simplest—buy low and sell high.

## Words of wisdom

"I'm into the bond crash of 1994, the Tequila crisis (in Mexico of 1995), the Asian crisis of 1997, the global meltdown of 1998, the 9-11 (terrorist attacks in the US) and now the (US) sub-prime crisis. In all these events, our traders and fund managers had to make money and I was very happy we did," Garcia said.

Garcia told the students to be disciplined and do not have to give up on losses to make money as the students had to learn to learn it.

He stressed that what was most important was for them to maintain their own values.

"You will have your successes and successes can be blinding. But as long as you keep the value and integrity that you have, you will be really, really successful," he said.

THIRD placer Assumption team of Palacio, Cruz and Bongco, with Zubiaga, Garcia, Corazon Lopez, Stella Sampaoan and Rosario Cruz Jr.

SECOND placer University of Asia and the Pacific team of Abes, Sia, Carandahan with professor Jodie Ngo

# Top 10 reasons . . .

From page G4

But, you can make Boxy Shin bad again and again and again.

3. Chat with Mr. T. Great story are beautiful, especially if they were with marine life. In Virtual Reef, chat with Mr. T, a yellow and purple-striped cartoon fish that answers the most pressing questions any child may have. Here is part of the exchange between Sonia and Mr. T:

Sonia: What did you have for lunch, Mr. T?

Mr. T: I ate sardela, which was very delicious!

Sonia: Why were you not hungry?

Sonia: That makes him upset (don't the sardines to you?

Mr. T: Oh! I crush the sardela with my sharp teeth, which shows the spikes.

Sonia: Where are your teeth?

Mr. T: Can't you see them? (Mr. T smiles and displays white-gleaming teeth.)

Sonia: Mr. T, I think you are a very talented artist.

Mr. T: Thank you. Sometimes I get so bored.

4. Touch the stars. Given across technology is no longer just for Hollywood. At Image Post, chance sculptor Jacob Gould Cuckerwood, most space, forest, pose against a green screen, and voilà! Beach out and touch your favorite planets. And leave your photo taken to prove that you have done so.

5. Journey to other worlds. At the Museo de Oro center in the Regional Planetarium. Us to plush cushion, seated in the Enchanted Reef, with plushy fish who can carry a tune! In this 35-more-dome, digital surround sound and crystal-clear pictures enhance storytelling adventure. The spirits us home-to-goodness planetarium show, and see galaxies up close.

SM Science Discovery Center is located at the Southside Entertainment Mall, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 5384333, or 211-87, or visit www.sm-sciencediscovery.com.

E-mail: lifestyle@yahoo.com.

SCOTT and his father beside the first-ever Philippine car, a Ruskin

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# Frannie Learns a Lesson

## Chapter 7: Frannie's first test

*Last chapter: Frannie made friends with Jordan the jellyfish. Frannie's first test is on Friday.*

FRANNIE RODE THE BUS HOME THAT DAY WITH HER FRIENDS. THEY were all talking about the first test and how they planned to study for it. Frannie wasn't sure how to study for the test, but she was too embarrassed to ask her friends for help. She thought they would think she wasn't as smart as they were. Frannie listened to her friends' plans all the way home, and it only made her more anxious about the test.

Frannie swam inside her house and was bombarded upon her mom asked her parents stopped her in the hall.

"How was school today?" her mother asked.

"Fine," answered Frannie.

"Nice?" her father asked. "Is that all? Did anything happen with your friends?"

"Well," Frannie began, "I decided that Bonnie and I could be friends, and Tom came to her on the bus and sat lunch, and now she's friends with all of my friends."

"That's great!" her parents were happy for Frannie.

"And my teacher, our teacher, Jordan. He's a jellyfish, and he's a teacher in my school. He's really nice, and now he's our friend, too."

"Well, we're glad you're making friends, Frannie, but why do you look so sad?" her mother asked.

"I've got a big test on Friday, and I feel I'm nervous about studying for it," Frannie admitted.

"Well, we've taken many tests in our lifetimes," her father said. "My advice to you is, don't wait until the last minute to study for it."

"And we're here to help you, if you need it," her mother added.

"Thanks," said Frannie. "I'm going to look over some notes tonight, and I'll study more tomorrow."

Frannie went to bed that night feeling a little better. She left even before the next day when the teacher handed out a study guide.

"Now class, these questions in the study guide are very similar to the questions on the test. If you fill out this guide, you should get a good grade on the test. I'm sure everyone will do just fine," said Miss. S.

Frannie was feeling a lot less scared now.

At lunch Suzy, Tommy, Carter, Bonnie, Jordan and Frannie all talked about what they were doing that evening.

Suzy went first. "I'm going to study for the test."

"Me, too," said Carter and Tommy.

"We don't have a test tomorrow in our class, so Jordan and I are going to swim over to the high school and watch the big football match against Tidewater Town," Bonnie answered excitedly.

"Oh...I want to come," Frannie said.

"You can come," Jordan said, "but meet us at the high school after school today. Bonnie's mom will be there, too."

"Frannie, shouldn't you study for the test tonight?" Suzy asked.

"I looked over some notes last night, and as long as I finish the study guide, I'll be fine," Frannie told Suzy.

"Are you sure? Because it's not enough to just look over the stuff. You have to try to understand it and remember it all, too," Suzy said.

"I'll be fine, just chill out," Frannie was getting mad.

"Okay," said Suzy. "I was just trying to help."

"I know, but don't worry. I'll do fine on that test," Frannie smiled at Suzy.

After school, Frannie went to the football game with Jordan and Bonnie. The game started at 4:30 p.m. and went into overtime. It didn't end until 7 p.m., by which time the three friends were very hungry. Bonnie's mom treated them to a late dinner at the Goodville Diner.

Frannie didn't get home until 8 p.m. She was so excited and told her parents about the game, the kelp burger she had at the diner, and how much fun she had with her friends.

Before she knew it, it was 8:30 p.m. and time for bed. Suddenly, Frannie remembered that she hadn't done a single one of her study questions!

When her parents came to say goodnight, Frannie knew they noticed the look on her face. They asked if everything was okay. She lied and said yes; she didn't want them to be disappointed in her for not studying.

Frannie could hardly sleep that night. She was worried about the test and what her friends would think. She knew she had made a mistake by not studying, and she wished she could turn back in time to fix it.

After an extremely quiet bus ride, Frannie swam into the classroom only to hear loud banging down. She was very upset with herself. She tried not to think about how little she had studied.

As soon as the bell rang, everyone swam into class, and Mrs. S swam to the front of the room.

"Okay class, are you ready for your first test?" she asked.

"Yes!" said everyone, but Frannie.

Frannie swallowed hard as Mrs. S passed out the test. Frannie took her paper and stared at it, stared to begin.

Next Monday: "School's Out!"

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### ACTIVITY GUIDE

**To do and think about ...**

1. List how different feelings Frannie experienced in chapter seven.

2. Share a helpful study tip with your classmates. Make a display board of all the tips. Do you like the tips together before the next classroom test or quiz?

3. Write which fun fact about your favorite character in the story and why. Also, say which fun fact about the character you least liked and give your reasons.

**Using the newspaper**

1. Cut out stories and pairs of pictures in inside sections of the chapters so far. Clip the "last wall" from chapter two would work really well.

2. Break up in small groups. Each group should create their own version of "before." Be sure to include tales, pictures or drawings of what the games might look like, what kind of rules the players might need. Use the newspaper to create the "equipment" to play your game. What will happen next?

Do you think Frannie will do well on her test?

### REAL LIFE & VALUES

**Rights and duties**

Victoria has the right to an education, but she also has duties related to this right, such as studying. Describe the choices Frannie made in chapter seven. Describe a time you were in a similar situation and how you felt. Write a note to Frannie advising her on how she could best prepare for her test.

• contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest •

Fliptop Fliptop

## Fun with colors under the sea

National Book Store

THIS IS what Frannie and her best friends look like, according to the Flip Flop winner for Week 3, 11-year-old Janelle O. Lo, a fifth grader at Immaculate Conception Academy.

FOR CHAPTER 7, DRAW FRANNIE AND her classmates playing after taking their test in their seats in the classroom. Deadline is Sunday, Oct. 26.

The best drawing will win a special Flip Flop watch, the winning Swiss watch from the makers of Swatch.

### How to submit

On a separate sheet of paper, write down your name, age, address, telephone number, cell phone number, school and the names of your parents. Include the signature of your parents. Paste the information sheet at the back of your friend's board. Have the entry in a clear plastic envelope.

Submit your entry on an 8½ x 12 inches friend board to any of the Swatch Stores (Glorietta 4, SM Mega Mall, 8, Trinoma), Swatch Kiosks (Ayala Town Center, SM City North Edsa Main, SM Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Mall, Robinson's Place Ermita, Sta. Lucia Mall, Festival Mall, V-Mall Greenhills, Ayala Cebu or UP Cum Laude Office (77 Sgt. Catalan St. corner New York St., Cubao, Quezon City) by specified deadline dates.

Entries are judged on their originality (25 percent), creativity (50 percent) and composition (25 percent).

Flip Flop prize watches may be claimed by winners at Swatch Mega Mall during store hours.

Each week's winner must present all of the following to claim the prize: A valid original ID (birth certificate or passport), a notification letter or this announcement, acknowledgement receipt from the Swatch store or Swatch kiosk or head office.

### Write soon

Calling all grade school teachers: Your class can write a Chapter 9 to the Frannie story after the eighth chapter has come. Write about Frannie and her friends' working on the first issue of their school paper.

All entries must be between 300-1,000 words in length and in English. Deadline is Nov. 3.

Entries may be submitted online to learning@inquirer.com.ph. Indicate the subject as "Frannie") or via mail, mail to "Frannie Learns a Lesson Writing Contest" to Inquirer Learning Section, PCIJ, 3/F, PCI Bldg., Paseo de Roxas corner Sapru and Maremares Streets, Makati City.

The class with the winning story will receive the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary—one for each student, one for the teacher and one for the school library.

*For complete terms and conditions, e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph.*

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

## Top 10 reasons to visit Science Discovery Center

HAVE FUN THIS SEMESTER BREAK, and learn about the universe at the same time! Bring the whole family to SM Science Discovery Center at Mall of Asia. On a recent visit, our family spent two hours traveling underwater, interacting with robots, and reaching out to other worlds—in the safety of an air-conditioned place.

Here are our 10-year-old son Basil's top 10 reasons to visit the center:

10. Marvel at the first ever Philippine car. In 1904, the Roadster, with its nine horsepower, two-cylinder engine, was the first to roll down the streets of our nation. Passed down from one generation to the next, the car has been acquired by Filipinos Shell, and is now on display at Transportation Science.

9. Look at global warming up close. Go three-storied giant screens. Spaceship Earth gives a tour of our world. A big part of the film is shot in Manila, a welcome change from the usual New York or Los Angeles films in other movies. But this is Manila at its environmental worst, with smoke belchers and garbage piles. Let's take care of our world.

8. Experience an earthquake. In Sinclair's Simulator, our buildings wobble, shake vigorously, and finally collapse as the quake climbs up the Richter Scale. Learn about safety measures. Most precautions, everyone!

7. Send e-mail to the future. Wish to travel to time? Science has not caught up with this dream, but you can send messages to the future at the Time Capsule. Imagine your friends' surprise when they receive e-mail in 2010 from you sent five years ago!

6. Meet famous robots in sci-fi. The Eidolon (in "Forever After") and the Cylons (in "Battlestar Galactica") are my husband's favorites. One was excitedly posed with—who else?—Terminator, played by Arnold Schwarzenegger, the current governor of California. Next also likes Dr. Hamchow, Lego's blockbuster robot that can retrieve stuck balls.

5. Play virtual sports. At Smart Mobidia City, play basketball or volleyball—virtual reality style. What can be cooler than scoring a slamdunk figure with your face that you can take home (or, you can only do in your dreams)? Plus your team gets time in the Flight Simulator!

4. Make Berg Man burp. When we ran, we do not just ingest food or water, but also air. Excess air in the tummy needs an outlet, burp, we burp. In the Gastrology Section, try making up the

TOP 10 (2)

SCOTT meets the Terminator.